



Joint Media Release

Neurosurgical Training in Australia

Royal Australasian College of Surgeons, Neurosurgical Society of Australasia and Macquarie University

The Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS), Neurosurgical Society of Australasia (NSA) and the Australian School of Advanced Medicine at Macquarie University have signed a Memorandum of Understanding relating to neurosurgical training in Australia.

NSA President, Associate Professor Guazzo said the agreement signed facilitated the collaboration between the parties to develop an articulation pathway between the RACS Surgical Education and Training (SET) Program in Neurosurgery and the Macquarie Master of Surgery Program in Neurosurgery. "It is envisaged that such an agreement will provide graduates and students of the MS Program with advanced standing credit in the RACS SET Program in Neurosurgery."

"In keeping with the international reputation that the RACS has of providing excellence in surgical training, the RACS, NSA and Macquarie have agreed that an alternative pathway may be desirable for some doctors seeking specialty training in neurosurgery," Professor Michael Morgan, Dean of The Australian School of Advanced Medicine, said.

"We believe that this educational partnership between the RACS, NSA and Macquarie will contribute to the advancement of surgical education," he said. Neurosurgery is the first specialty that will offer a Masters of Surgery Program which will have a formal articulation pathway with the RACS".

Neurosurgery Board Chairman, Associate Professor Michael Weidmann said "We share a common goal to produce the most highly skilled neurosurgeons for the communities we serve. Based on the premise of our complimentary educational philosophies we believe the development of an articulation pathway will provide considerable benefit to students, graduates and neurosurgical training as a whole. We are excited to be collaborating with Macquarie University to develop this articulation pathway."

Prof Morgan said that many doctors who would make excellent surgeons had chosen alternative careers in medicine because of the long hours they need to work as a hospital registrar during training. The advantage of this collaboration is that the MS Program separates the service provision of being a surgical registrar from the educational commitment required to becoming a surgeon.

Macquarie University previously announced the establishment of the medical school for sub-specialty training. Macquarie University is providing degrees in medicine that include a Master of Advanced Surgery (sub-specialty training) as well as Master of Surgery programs.

Dr Ian Civil, Censor in Chief of the RACS, said this agreement would be of huge benefit for surgical training. He said a steering committee will be set up to oversee the development of the articulation pathway. "The College welcomes this opportunity to partner a private organisation in the delivery of surgical training. This partnership will provide important experience, not only for the trainees, but also for the RACS. We hope this enterprise will be the forerunner of many similar partnerships with providers of excellence in all the nine disciplines of surgical training."

Professor Steven Schwartz, Vice Chancellor of Macquarie University, said: "We are looking forward to establishing an excellent partnership with the RACS and the NSA. Our emphasis on excellence and education is clearly a shared vision with the RACS and the NSA and we believe that together we can continue to keep Australia at the forefront of surgical training."

Contact: Michael Morgan, Macquarie University, 040907 4824
Fiona Gilles, RACS Media Department, 03 9249 1263
Stacie Gull, NSA, 03 9249 1294