

## **ASM Report for the 2025 ANZHNCS AGM**

This report was submitted by August 12<sup>th</sup> as requested by TAS to allow them time to collate, proof and prepare for the AGM on Saturday August 30<sup>th</sup>.

I will present a more updated report on registration numbers and the budget at the AGM.

For the purposes of this AGM report: Please find the summary below

The ASM was this year held on Friday August 29 to Sunday August 31<sup>st</sup>. We have also organised several pre-conference workshops for this ASM: The Head and Neck Cadaveric Dissection workshop from August 27<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> convened by Rowan Valentine and 8 faculty. The prehab to rehab workshop convened by Lee Pryor and Tracey Nicholls with 12 faculty and the Jaw in a Day (JIAD) workshop convened by Felix Sim and 5 faculty members.

Registration numbers on August 4<sup>th</sup> were

228 delegates and about 60 industry reps

Workshop attendance as follows:

- Prehab Workshop: 57 attendees + 12 faculty
- JIAD Workshop: 6 (10?) hands on, 4 observers + 6 faculty
- Dissection Workshop: 8 Dissectors, 6 observers + 10 faculty

The conference was held from Friday to Sunday which was different from previous years when it was held from Thursday to Saturday. This was so people would only miss a day of work (Friday) instead of 2 days (Thurs and Fri) but in retrospect I think it affected the attendance for people who did not want to spend the whole weekend away from their family. The other reasons we moved it was also to accommodate pre-conference workshops. The workshops were designed to cater for the diversity of our society membership. The prehab to rehab workshop was designed for anyone treating head and neck cancer but targeted towards allied health and nursing. The JIAD workshop was aimed for surgeons and prosthodontists, while the cadaveric workshop was aimed towards trainees, fellows and young head and neck surgeon consultants.

The keynote speakers were selected from a diverse range of countries and specialities. Surgeon Professor Vincent vander Poorten from Belgium, Radiation Oncologist Professor Alex Lin from the USA, Speech Language Pathologist Professor Jo Patterson from the UK, Medical Oncologist Professor Danny Rischin from Australia and Professor Danielle MacNeil from Canada. The keynote speakers received an honorarium from the society to attend the meeting and contribute to talks and panels.

Danielle MacNeil attended this meeting covering her own travel costs. Jake Jervis-Bardy kindly organised accommodation for her and the society covered her meeting registration and meals.

Other keynote speakers include Professor Lyle Palmer from the University of Adelaide who is a top research leader in genetics, cancer and artificial intelligence. He kindly agreed to give a talk on AI and the future of cancer research.

The Chris O'Brien Oration was given by Professor Suren Krishnan, who is a former President of this society and one of Australia's leading Head and Neck Cancer Surgeon. He also personally knew the late Chris O'Brien.

The organising committee was put together and my first email to them was on 2/10/23. We had our first meeting on 6/11/23 to discuss ideas for a meeting theme, and put together a list of keynote speakers, sponsors and ideas for sessions.

The organising committee comprised of Lee Pryor (SLP), Hien Le (Rad Onc, Tracey Nicholls (Nursing), Jia Miin Yip (PR&S), Rachael Chang and Shawgi Sukumaran (Med Onc), Rowan Valentine (ENT) and James Badlani (OMFS). Unfortunately, James had to withdraw from the organising committee later in 2024 due to personal reasons. We met regularly and sent countless emails to keep ahead of the timeline set by the PCO (due date for the first task to organise a committee was Oct 2024!). The ASM program and workshops were finalised ahead of schedule. I would also like to express my thanks to Payden Rowe and her team from RACS, who were a big help in organising this conference. I had regular meetings with Payden and lots of emails while organising this ASM. It was a pleasure to work with Payden and Mara from RACS as the PCO.

The conference dinner theme this year was wearing Burgundy, the colour for head and neck cancer awareness, and my favourite wine region (I was told it was also Chris O'Brien's favourite wine too)

We introduced several new initiatives for this year's ASM. The new ideas include purchasing burgundy pins for the dinner, a fun walk providing a society branded cap and multiple workshops and new sponsorship options. The new sponsorship package options such as an unopposed lunchtime talk for the platinum sponsor, and an increased value for the gold, silver and bronze sponsorship packages and new opportunities to sponsor scientific sessions, a coffee cart, and various prizes.

What I have learned is that Thursday to Saturday is probably the preferred approach for this society's ASM. The numbers attending is better than historical numbers for previous Adelaide meetings, but it could have been potentially more with the usual Thursday to Saturday format. I think the last week in August works well for the society and should continue for future meetings.

We exceeded the sponsorship budget target (\$120K) and secured \$170K in sponsorship. Registration numbers, final costs, and invoices are not finalised yet but so far, we are looking at an estimated profit of just over \$100K. If we exceed 300 people attending the meeting (registrations, industry, PCO and society staff) we will receive an additional \$17K from Business Events Adelaide.

Our industry support has been excellent, and I want to thank our Gold Sponsor MSD, Silver Sponsors Medison & Stryker, Bronze Sponsors Belberry, Dr Reddy's, Exelixis, Icon Cancer Centre, KLS Martin, and Microsurgical Specialities. Scientific Session Sponsors Adcendo, Medison, MSD, and the SA Foundation of Otorhinolaryngology (who also sponsored the Allied Health grant) and Endotherapeutics for sponsoring the coffee cart.

Finally, I want to thank all my fellow organising committee members and RACS for their amazing support and help with putting this ASM together. It would not have been possible without their help. The strengths of our society's ASM are the multi-disciplinary focus of the treatment of head and neck cancer. It has been a pleasure to convene this meeting bringing together the specialists treating head and neck cancer in Australia and NZ together for an excellent program.

Professor Eng Ooi  
ANZHNCS ASM 2025 Convenor