

# Developing a Career and skills in Academic Surgery (DCAS) Course

with Keynote Presenter  
Professor Jonathan Koea

Monday 6 May 2024  
The Christchurch Club



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# Organising Committee

## DCAS Co-Chairs

**Associate Professor James Lee**

RACS Section for Academic Surgery

**Associate Professor Claudia Di Bella**

RACS Section for Academic Surgery

**Dr Juliet Emamaullee**

Association for Academic Surgery (USA)

## Committee Members

**Professor Jonathan Karpelowsky**

Chair, RACS Section for Academic Surgery

**Professor Wendy Babidge**

General Manager, RACS

Research, Audit and Academic Surgery

**Dr Rachel Lumb**

Senior Project Lead, Academic Surgery

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# General Information

## Intention to Photograph

Please take note that photographs may be taken during the course, and the organiser reserves the right to reproduce them. These photographs may be used for the following purposes:

- Displaying onsite
- Reporting on the course in online and print publications
- Marketing future courses, including online and print publications.

If you prefer not to be featured in a photograph, kindly inform the photographer.

# Developing a Career and skills in Academic Surgery (DCAS) Course

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## Final Program

Monday 6 May 2024

7:00AM | REGISTRATIONS OPEN

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7:35AM | WELCOME BY RACS PRESIDENT  
**Kerin Fielding**

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7:50AM | WELCOME  
**DCAS Organising Committee, James Lee, Claudia Di Bella, Juliet Emamullee**

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8:00AM | SESSION 1: THE MAKING OF A SURGEON SCIENTIST - "If there is a will, there is a way"  
Chair: Claudia Di Bella

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8:00am What inspired me to be a surgeon scientist  
**Callisia Clarke (Wisconsin, USA)**

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8:15am Is being a surgeon scientist the right choice for me  
**Anthony Glover (New South Wales)**

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8:30am Finding a topic that sparks joy  
**Andrew MacCormick (Victoria)**

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8:45am Research on a shoestring  
**Kerin Fielding (New South Wales)**

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9:00am Keeping up with the Kardashians in research  
**James Lee (Victoria)**

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9:15am Panel Discussion

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9:45AM | MORNING TEA WITH THE FACULTY

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# Developing a Career and skills in Academic Surgery (DCAS) Course

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## Final Program Cont'd

10:15AM | SESSION 2: DON'T LOSE SIGHT OF THE BIGGER PICTURE -  
"Seeing both the forest and the trees"  
Chair: Karishma Jassal

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10:15am Maintaining research momentum while completing training.  
**Cameron Wells (New Zealand)**

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10:30am Collaboration - no one is an island  
**Deborah Wright (New Zealand)**

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10:45am Strategies to prevent a mid-career crisis  
**Brenessa Lindeman (Alabama, USA)**

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11:00am Seed funding sources and how to leverage it  
**Claudia Di Bella (Victoria)**

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11:15am Panel Discussion

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11:30AM | HOT TOPIC IN ACADEMIC SURGERY  
Unleashing the power of AI in surgical research  
**Matthew Read (Victoria)**

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12:00AM | LUNCH WITH THE FACULTY

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1:00PM | SESSION 3: MODERN TOOLS OF THE TRADE  
Chair: Cameron Wells

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1:00pm Writing a compelling abstract  
**Yue-Yung Hu (Illinois, USA)**

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1:15pm Presentations to impress  
**Juliet Emamaullee (Los Angeles, USA)**

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1:30pm The Manuscript  
**Lesly Dossett (Michigan, USA)**

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1:45pm Panel Discussion

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2:00PM | KEYNOTE PRESENTATION  
Research is not just for those in the ivory tower  
**Jonathan Koea (New Zealand)**

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# Developing a Career and skills in Academic Surgery (DCAS) Course

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## Final Program Cont'd

2:30PM | AFTERNOON BREAK WITH THE FACULTY

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2:45PM | SESSION 4: THE CONTROVERSIES - PANEL DISCUSSIONS  
Chair: James Lee

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When is a good time to pursue a postgrad degree  
**Sid Rele (Victoria)**

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The mentor-mentee relationship - courting, sustaining and divorcing  
**Henry Badgery (Victoria)**

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Research as a CV builder vs a true passion  
**Isaac Tranter-Entwistle (New Zealand)**

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Role of generative AI in surgical research  
**Karishma Jassal (Victoria)**

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3:45PM | SESSION 5: CLOSING SESSION  
The future of surgical research in Australia and New Zealand  
**Oliver Lyons (New Zealand)**

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4:00PM | THANK YOU

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The Developing a Career and skills in Academic Surgery (DCAS) 2024 event is proudly sponsored by:

**Johnson & Johnson**  
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## Keynote Presenter



### Jonathan Koea

New Zealand

**Professor Jonathan Koea** (Ngāti mutunga, Ngāti tama) grew up in Taranaki and graduated from Medical School at the University of Auckland. After completing General Surgery training in Aotearoa New Zealand, Jonathan undertook post

fellowship training in surgical oncology and hepatobiliary and pancreatic surgery at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Centre in New York City.

He is President of the Australian, Aotearoa New Zealand Hepatopancreaticobiliary Association, an examiner for the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons, the subspecialty editor for HPB Surgery for the ANZ Journal of Surgery, a Trustee of Hei Āhuru Mōwai, and works in an advisory role for Te Ahu o Te Kahu.

Jonathan maintains a research program in the fields of HPB Surgery, gastrointestinal cancer and Indigenous health and has a focus on increasing numbers of Māori entering surgical careers.

## Hot Topic In Academic Surgery Presenter



### Matthew Read

Victoria

**Dr Matthew Read** is a general and upper gastrointestinal surgeon. After completing his general surgical Fellowship in 2016, Matthew undertook accredited subspecialty training through AANZGOSA.

During this period, Matthew also obtained his PhD through the Peter MacCallum Cancer Institute and the University of Melbourne, which was focused on the biology of oesophageal cancer. This work resulted in being awarded a combined clinical and research Fellowship in surgical oncology at the University Medical Centre in Utrecht, the Netherlands.

In addition to his clinical practice, Matthew also leads a research program through the University of Melbourne and is involved in a key global health initiative where he has helped to establish a Fellowship training program in Sub-Saharan Africa for both cardiothoracic and general surgeons.

Matthew's research has led to numerous publications, awards and international collaborations. Matthew is a past recipient of the senior lecturer Fellowship from the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons and serves as the younger fellow representative on the Academic Surgery Committee.

Matthew serves on both scientific and education committees for both OESO and ISDE, the two key international oesophageal societies.

## Association for Academic Surgery Speakers and International Faculty



### Callisia Clarke

Wisconsin, USA

**Dr. Callisia Clarke** completed her medical degree at the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine where she was elected to the Alpha Omega Alpha Honors Society.

She completed a general surgery residency at the University of Cincinnati Medical Center in Cincinnati, Ohio in 2013 and a fellowship in Complex General Surgical Oncology at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center in 2016.

She joined the faculty at the Medical College of Wisconsin in 2016 and is an Associate Professor of Surgery, and Chief of the Division of Surgical Oncology. Her research efforts are centered on epigenetic regulation of pancreatic neuroendocrine tumors and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in academic surgery.

She holds several leadership positions in national organizations. She was recently elected the President-Elect of the Association for Academic Surgery, the first Black Woman to hold this office and serves in other leadership roles in the Society of Surgical Oncology and the American Board of Surgery.



### Lesly Dossett

Michigan, USA

**Dr. Lesly Dossett, MD, MPH**, is the Maud T. Lane Research Professor for Cancer Quality Improvement, Associate Professor of Surgery, and Chief of the Division of Surgical Oncology at the University of Michigan. Dr. Dossett earned her medical degree at Vanderbilt University School of

Medicine in 2003, attending on a United States Navy Health Professions Scholarship.

She completed her general surgery residency at Vanderbilt University in 2010. During a two-year post-doctoral research fellowship, she was awarded an Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) training grant and obtained an MPH.

After completing her residency, she entered active duty with the United States Navy, serving as a General Surgeon in various combat support operational roles stateside and overseas.

After leaving the Navy in 2014, Dr. Dossett entered a clinical fellowship in Complex General Surgical Oncology at Moffitt Cancer Center in Tampa, FL. She joined the faculty of the University of Michigan in 2016. Dr. Dossett specializes in treating patients with complex cancer, including melanoma, soft tissue sarcoma, and breast cancer. Dr. Dossett's research centers on healthcare delivery and decision-making, particularly avoiding low-value care. In her role as Co-Director of the Michigan Program for Value Enhancement, she works to translate research findings to the bedside to improve the value of care patients receive at Michigan Medicine and beyond.

## Association for Academic Surgery Speakers and International Faculty Cont'd



### **Juliet Emamaullee**

Los Angeles, USA

**Dr. Juliet Emamaullee** is an Associate Professor of Surgery and Immunology (Clinical Scholar) at the University of Southern California Keck School of Medicine and an attending liver and kidney transplant surgeon at Keck Hospital and Children's Hospital-Los Angeles.

She is also the Associate Chief, Division of Clinical Research, Department of Surgery. Dr. Emamaullee completed her PhD and MD degrees at the University of Alberta, followed by residency training in general surgery at Emory University and an abdominal organ transplant/HPB surgery fellowship at the University of Alberta. She is a surgeon-scientist with an NIH-funded translational immunobiology lab, exploring immunological phenotypes associated with liver transplant recipients. Dr. Emamaullee's areas of expertise include computational biology, Fontan-associated liver disease, and living donor liver transplantation.

Dr. Emamaullee holds leadership roles in several surgical societies including the American College of Surgeons, American Society of Transplant Surgeons, American Society of Transplantation, and Association for Academic Surgery. She serves as Chair of the North American Living Liver Donation Innovation Group. She has >120 peer-reviewed publications and over \$2 million in extramural funding including a National Cancer Institute K08 Award. She is the recipient of the 2023 American Society of Transplantation Rising Star in Transplant Surgery, 2023 International Liver Transplant Society Basic Science Investigator Award, and 2023 American College of Surgeons Jacobson Promising Investigator Award.



### **Yue-Yung Hu**

Illinois, USA

**Yue-Yung Hu, MD, MPH** is a pediatric surgeon at the Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago and an Associate Professor at Northwestern University. She is a co-PI of the SECOND Trial, a cluster-randomized controlled trial of 212 general surgery

residency programs focused on resident well-being, and the upcoming THIRD Trial, which seeks to improve diversity, equity, and inclusion in departments of surgery.

She is funded by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), and both Trials are funded by the American College of Surgeons and the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education. Her work has been published in the New England Journal of Medicine, JAMA, JAMA Surgery, and Annals of Surgery.

She is also an Associate Program Director of the Northwestern General Surgery residency.



### **Brenessa Lindeman**

Alabama, USA

**Brenessa Lindeman, MD, MEHP**, is an Associate Professor and Vice Chair of Education in the Department of Surgery and Assistant Dean for Graduate Medical Education at the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

A native of eastern Kentucky, she completed her undergraduate training summa cum laude at the University of Louisville and graduated Alpha Omega Alpha as the Founder's Medalist at the Vanderbilt University School of Medicine in 2009.

She completed residency training in General Surgery at Johns Hopkins Hospital, where she served as an Administrative Chief Resident, and completed a fellowship in Endocrine Surgery at Brigham and Women's Hospital/Harvard Medical School. At UAB, she also serves as the Section Chief and Fellowship Director for Endocrine Surgery and Co-Director of the Multi-Disciplinary Endocrine Tumor Clinic.

Dr. Lindeman earned a Masters of Education in the Health Professions from Johns Hopkins University and completed Surgical Education Research Fellowships with the Association for Surgical Education and Massachusetts General Hospital.

She served as a member of Drafting Panels for EPAs with the AAMC Core EPAs for Entering Residency, the American Board of Surgery, and American Association of Endocrine Surgeons. She is a Councilor for the American Board of Surgery, Director of the General Surgery Board, and Member of the American College of Surgeons Academy of Master Surgeon Educators. She is a member of the Editorial Board for Academic Medicine and Associate Editor for Education at American Journal of Surgery. Her research interests are in development and assessment of competency in surgical trainees and evaluation of the learning climate/physician wellbeing.

## RACS Section of Academic Surgery Invited Speakers and Local Faculty



### **Henry Badgery**

Victoria

**Henry Badgery** is a GSET 1 registrar through St Vincent's Hospital, Melbourne.

He is completing his PhD examining AI applications in laparoscopic surgery and has an active interest in this field.



## RACS Section of Academic Surgery Invited Speakers and Local Faculty Cont'd



### Claudia Di Bella

Victoria

**Associate Professor Claudia Di Bella** is an academic orthopaedic surgeon in Melbourne, specialising in orthopaedic oncology and arthroplasty.

As an Associate Professor of Surgery at the University of Melbourne, she is the clinical lead of the cartilage regeneration program and osteosarcoma 3D printing program at the Biofab3D, part of the Aikenhead Centre for Medical Discovery (ACMD). Leveraging national and international collaborations, A/Prof Di Bella and her team are recognised as international leaders in the field of cartilage regeneration.

With unique expertise as one of Australia's few orthopaedic oncologists and women specialists in arthroplasty, her contributions extend to academic publications, with over 60 manuscripts, 2 book chapters, and presentations at 60 national and international conferences in orthopaedic oncology, arthroplasty, and tissue engineering.

Passionate about diversity and inclusion in STEM-M, she actively supports initiatives for Women in Arthroplasty, including Orthopaedic Women's Link (OWL), Women in Surgery, and Women in the International Society of Orthopaedic Oncology. A committed mentor, she engages in guiding and sponsoring young surgeons in their career pursuits. Recognised for her outstanding contributions, A/Prof Di Bella was awarded the AOA Leadership Medal in 2022.



### Kerin Fielding

New South Wales

**Associate Professor Kerin Fielding** was the first female Orthopaedic Surgeon in NSW and has established a successful career in Wagga Wagga over the past 30 years working at the Wagga Wagga Base Hospital and Calvary Healthcare Riverina. Kerin has special interests in surgery of the Hip, Knee, Spine, and Trauma.

She is a leader in surgical education and training and is the Chair of the NSW Clinical Surgical Training Council for the Health Education and Training Institute (NSW Health), and the Clinical Lead for specialty surgery Notre Dame University, Wagga Wagga Campus. Kerin is also a senior course director of the Early Management of Severe Trauma course for the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS) and serves on the National EMST committee (RACS).

Associate Professor Fielding is a strong advocate for improvements in rural health care. She has campaigned for better treatment of osteoporosis, chairing the working party for the establishment of the Osteoporosis Liaison service (Greater Southern Area Health Service). She has been a member of the National Scientific Committee of Osteoporosis Australia and is on the executive of the National Hip Fracture Registry.

In 2015 Associate Professor Fielding was elected to the Council of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons and has been re-elected twice. In 2023 she was elected by Council to the role of President. She is also leading the Rural Health Strategy for the College.

Her work has been recognised with several awards; Royal Australasian College of Surgeons medal for service to education and Rural Surgery in NSW 2012; Surgical trainee supervisor of the year (RACS) for NSW 2021; meritorious service award from the Australian Orthopaedic Association(AOA) 2021; Graham Coupland Memorial award and lecture(RACS) 2022.



### Anthony Glover

New South Wales

**Associate Professor Anthony Glover** is a general/endocrine surgeon and surgeon scientist/educator. He is the Director for the Master Surgery program at Sydney Medical School and runs a

research group at the University of Sydney and Garvan Institute of Medical Research, St Vincent's Clinical School. Anthony has clinical practices at St Vincent's Clinic and Kolling Institute, St Leonards focusing on treatment of thyroid and parathyroid disease.

Anthony's research and education programs focusing on improving the understanding of endocrine cancer biology, improving clinical outcomes from surgery and aiding the development of surgical competencies, leadership and professional skills. For his research training he completed a PhD with the University of Sydney and received post-doctoral training at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Institute (New York) as an NHMRC Early Career Fellow.

He has won multiple awards for his research, including the NSW Premier's Awards for Outstanding Cancer Research - Outstanding Cancer Research Fellow in 2022 and was awarded the RACS John Mitchell Crouch Fellowship for 2024.



### Karishma Jassal

Victoria

**Dr Karishma Jassal** is a military trauma and general surgeon who's civilian appointments are in oncoplastic breast and endocrine surgery.

She is currently a PhD candidate researching novel artificial intelligence applications within surgery.



### James Lee

Victoria

**Associate Professor James C Lee** MBBS FRACS PhD FACS is an academic endocrine surgeon at The Alfred and Monash Health in Melbourne.

His key clinical interests are in the management of patients with thyroid, parathyroid and adrenal tumours. He also participates in the acute General Surgery and trauma programs.

His research interests are in the discovery of molecular biomarkers to improve the diagnosis and prognosis of thyroid cancer, and the application of artificial intelligence in Endocrine Surgery.

James received the Doctor of Philosophy from the University of Sydney for his thesis on the miRNA biomarkers of papillary thyroid cancer and was a recipient of the RACS Foundation for Surgery Senior Lecturer Fellowship. His current research is supported by the Epworth Research Institute, The Aftershock, and IMPACT Philanthropy.

James was a co-convenor of the RACS Academic Surgery Meeting from 2014 to 2023, and is now a co-chair of DCAS. He is passionate about research training for the next generation of surgeons.

## RACS Section of Academic Surgery Invited Speakers and Local Faculty Cont'd



### Oliver Lyons

New Zealand

**Oliver** is a vascular & transplant surgeon in Christchurch, New Zealand. He trained at Guy's & St Thomas' hospitals in London, UK.

His PhD, funded by the Medical Research Council, investigated the molecular regulation of valve disease. Following training as a National Institute of Health Research Academic Clinician and a fellowship at St Mary's Hospital, London, he relocated with his family to Christchurch and the University of Otago.

His research has been recognised by the UK's Patey prize, and as Hunterian Professor of the Royal College of Surgeons of England. At home he's a keen skier surfer and trail runner.



### Andrew MacCormick

New Zealand

**Andrew MacCormick** trained in General Surgery in Aotearoa New Zealand. He undertook his fellowship in Upper GI and Bariatric surgery. He is an Associate Professor at the University of Auckland and a

Consultant Surgeon at Middlemore Hospital. He works as a Bariatric and Upper GI surgeon and Director of Trauma. He is the Head of the Medical Programme for the University of Auckland. He is chair of the Aotearoa New Zealand National Committee of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons. Andrew's ongoing research interests are in health services research including registries, and clinical decision making. Additionally he has research projects in the areas of ERAS, Environmental Issues, Clinical Variation and his clinical interests which include trauma, benign and malignant oesophageal and gastric diseases and bariatric surgery.



### Sid Rele

Victoria

**Sid** is currently an Intern at The Alfred hospital having completed his MD and submitted his PhD in December 2023.

His thesis was titled "the cost effectiveness of reducing length of stay for total joint arthroplasty". His clinical interests lie in orthopaedic surgery, whilst his research interests align with health services research, health economics, and, health policy.



### Isaac Tranter-Entwistle

New Zealand

**Isaac Tranter-Entwistle** is a general surgery trainee and PhD candidate at the University of Otago, Christchurch.

His research interests lie at the intersection of surgical process and automated analysis tools. When not at work he enjoys running in the hills.



### Cameron Wells

New Zealand

**Cameron Wells** is a non-SET general surgical registrar at Te Whatu Ora Te Toka Tumai and PhD Candidate at The University of Auckland, Aotearoa New Zealand.

His PhD research focuses on early identification of complications after major abdominal surgery and the use of wearable devices to monitor and identify deteriorating patients. He is funded by the Health Research Council of New Zealand, and the Ministry of Business, Innovation, and Employment.

As a medical student, Cameron completed an intercalated Bachelor of Medical Science (Honours) degree investigating the mechanisms of postoperative ileus. More broadly, his research interests include gut motility, medical devices, and postoperative recovery.

Cameron helped introduce trainee-led collaborative research networks to Australasia, being the national lead for Aotearoa New Zealand in the IMAGINE and GlobalSurg-3 studies, and has more recently been a member of the steering committees for the recent POSTVenTT, CHOLENZ, and OPERAS studies. He is a mentor to the student-led TASMAN Collaborative and is a current member of the STRATA Collaborative executive committee.

He is a previous recipient of the DCAS Award (2014), New Zealand Junior Doctor of the Year (2019), the Health Research Council of New Zealand Clinical Research Training Fellowship (2021), the Surgical Research Society Young Investigator Award (2022), and is a previous President of the Australasian Students' Surgical Association (2018). Cameron has published extensively, with 77 peer-reviewed publications and 2 book chapters to-date.



### Deborah Wright

New Zealand

Deborah Wright is a General and Colorectal Surgeon in Dunedin and Senior Lecturer at Dunedin Medical School.

Deborah began her medical training in the UK, before relocating to New Zealand in 2003 where she completed her training in General Surgery and a PhD in the molecular biology of colorectal cancer.

Deborah went on to complete subspecialty training in colorectal surgery spending time in Auckland, New Zealand and Birmingham, United Kingdom.

Her research interests include cancer biology and large collaborative studies. She has been involved in the several of the trainee-led collaborative studies run in Australia and New Zealand over the last 5 years as a member of the advisory board and national co-ordinating investigator.

Deborah is on the board of the Dunedin Colorectal Cancer Cohort, on the Lower GI Working Party of the Australasian Gastro-Intestinal Trials Group, a member of the Scientific Advisory Committee for The Gut Cancer Foundation, and a member of CommNETS.

Deborah is also very interested in gender equity, and more widely in issues of diversity and inclusion in surgery.

## Abstracts

### Hot Topic in Academic Surgery

#### **Unleashing the power of AI in surgical research**

*Matthew Read*

11:30am - 12:00pm

Artificial intelligence (AI) is a rapidly evolving technology with clear benefits to surgery and the delivery of surgical care.

However, prior to its widespread implementation, key barriers need to be overcome.

This hot topic lecture will provide an overview of some of the key concepts relating to AI and discuss these barriers in depth. It will highlight how AI is being applied in both the clinical and research settings and explore some of the novel research opportunities that this creates.

Key requirements for establishing an AI-based research program will also be outlined.

### Keynote Presentation

#### **Research is not just for those in the ivory towers**

*Jonathan Koea*

2:05pm - 2:30pm

An ivory tower is a metaphorical place where the inhabitants are happily cut off from the rest of the world in favour of their own pursuits - most commonly mental or esoteric - defining a state of privileged seclusion or separation from the facts and practicalities of the real world.

In biblical tradition the term "ivory tower" is used as a symbol of noble purity. Surgeons by nature of their work as professional problem solvers (of varying noble purity) must inhabit the "real world" and be concerned with its facts and practicalities.

Surgeons must also utilize time for reflection to innovate and define solutions for the real world problems they and their patients encounter every day. While some surgical problems and solutions are undoubtedly esoteric and understood by only a small number of people with specialized knowledge, a surgeon's greatest responsibility is to communicate with a wide range of individuals - patients, whānau, administrators and policy makers - if innovation and problem solving is to benefit the greatest number of people.

Advocacy for patients and services is the most difficult and challenging part of being a surgeon in the 21st century. In Aotearoa New Zealand it has now become an integral part of surgical practice.

### **Course Organiser**

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