4. FELLOWSHIP ACTIVITIES

4.1 CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

4.1.1 Qualitative Data

Policies relating to the College’s Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Programme are current for the period 2004 – 2006.

Requirement to begin participating in CPD Programme

In response the New Zealand Medical Council’s requirement for surgeons to have evidence of participation in an approved CPD Programme for vocational registration the College in 2004 approved a recommendation that Fellows will have a requirement to begin participating in the CPD Programme immediately following admission to Fellowship. Prior to this, Fellows had a requirement to begin participating in the CPD Programme in January the year after gaining Fellowship. (In some cases this had resulted in Fellows not participating for up to a year after commencing independent practice.)

CPD data collection

Data collection for the CPD Programme is now available online via the College website. Fellows can now access a CPD Online Diary to record CPD activities in a real time format.

Categories of activity recognised

The 2004 – 2006 CPD Programme Information Manual outlining the requirements is available online. There have been no changes to the categories of activity recognised in the College’s 2004 – 2006 CPD Programme.

Process for endorsement

The Professional Development and Standards Board has recently given in principle support for the approval of small group learning and interactive clinical/surgical skills at five points per hour, in addition to the current one point per hour option in the CPD Programme. The 2004 – 2006 CPD Programme is based on a points system to allow weighting of components or educational value. Incorporated in this approach is an emphasis on active learning.

Initiatives to evaluate professional development programs

The College undertakes regular process evaluation of the CPD Programme including reporting on compliance and participation using a variety of parameters such as practice type, specialty and region/country. All professional development workshops and courses are evaluated and results are carefully considered to assist with future planning and to ensure that the needs of Fellows are being met.

Self-regulation and recertification

The recertification process continues to be self regulatory. Fellows report CPD data to the College annually and 2.5% of Fellows are randomly selected to verify their CPD data each year.
Measures to address non-participation

Developing a process for addressing incentives and sanctions for the CPD Programme is a key component of the College’s 2004 – 2006 Strategic Plan. Measures to promote participation and compliance have been discussed at length by the Professional Development and Standards Board. As a way forward to address the issue, the names of Fellows who comply with the requirements of the 2004 – 2006 CPD Programme will be made available on a publicly available list on the College website, following a formal consent process.

Preceptorships for retraining Fellows in new developments / techniques

The College is actively considering this issue and will be seeking support for such an initiatives from jurisdictional partners and licensing authorities to ensure the success of such a scheme for both the retraining doctor and the community.

Further development

The CPD Programme is reviewed in detail every three years. In addition, the College is continually developing new professional development opportunities for Fellows. Recently developed professional development activities include Winding Down from Surgical Practice, Dealing with Difficult Patients and Work/Life Balance. The College is also currently exploring a postgraduate pathway for the Surgeons and Managers Workshop.

4.1.2 Quantitative Data

Ninety three percent of Fellows have participated in the 2003 CPD Programme and 92% have complied with the annual requirements. Overall results for the 2001 – 2003 CPD Programme indicate that 88% of Fellows have complied for the triennium.

In the past year the College has surveyed non-participants. The survey was developed to collect information about the barriers and problems experienced by Fellows who have not participated in the Programme.

The survey was issued to Fellows who have not participated (not returned a recertification data form) for the 2002 CPD Programme, with a letter from the College President. The survey raised a number of themes including communication, timeliness of data collection, consideration for rural Fellows and recognition of other CPD Programmes as approved pathways for recertification.

In addition, the College launched data collection for the CPD Programme online, to enable Fellows to record CPD data in a real time format. The College believes this service will also encourage Fellows to participate in the CPD Programme. The Section of Breast Surgery requires that those who wish to be full members should submit completed audit data forms for review.

4.2 SURGICAL MORTALITY AUDIT

In February 2004, Council agreed that the College would coordinate a bi-national rollout of a surgical mortality audit based on the Western Australian Audit of Surgical Mortality (WAASM). It was recognised that a bi-national approach was needed to ensure standardisation and consistency in data collection, analysis, assessment and reporting of the regionally-based mortality audits.
4.3 INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS

The Fellows of the College have a proud tradition of volunteering their surgical and teaching skills to assist disadvantaged communities. In 2004, 80 Australian and New Zealand teams of specialist surgeons, anaesthetists and nurses volunteered for this work, and eight formal training programs were provided to the countries visited. Most of the following projects are funded by the Agency for International Development of the Federal Government of Australia.

4.3.1 Australia East Timor Specialist Services Project (ETSSP)

This Project commenced in July 2001 in response to an urgent request by AusAID and the Ministry of Health in East Timor to provide surgical and anaesthetic support to Hospital National Guido Valadares (HNGV), Dili. The Project provides a full time general surgeon and anaesthetist who deliver continuous general surgical and anaesthetic services to the local population, mentor local doctors who are interested in becoming surgeons and train nurses who wish to become nurse anaesthetists.

Monthly short term surgical visits are deployed in the following specialties:

- ENT
- Ophthalmology
- Orthopaedic Surgery
- Paediatric Cardiology & Cardiac Surgery
- Paediatric Surgery
- Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery
- Urology

The Project is committed to developing the long term capacity of East Timor’s medical system through the provision of on-the-job skills training, specialist workshops and accredited training programs in-country and overseas. In 2004 the Project successfully trained nine Anaesthetic Nurses, three for the National referral hospital and six for the districts, and provided training to four East Timorese doctors who now can competently carry out a number of surgical procedures. These trainees are being supported for further training overseas. 19 volunteer teams provided services to East Timor.

Assistance with the procurement and maintenance of biomedical equipment is also undertaken by the Project.

4.3.2 Pacific Islands Project (PIP)

The Project provides specialist surgical and medical services to 11 Pacific Island Countries, in addition to capacity building activities for health professionals in the region. In 2004 38 volunteer teams were sent to the Pacific.

Covering the Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Micronesia, Nauru, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu, the Project organises short term visits by multi-disciplinary medical teams in the following specialties:

- Cardiac Surgery
- Diabetes Education by Medical personnel
- ENT
A key goal of the Project is to improve the medical knowledge and skills of Pacific Island health workers, enabling them to deliver a range of primary, secondary and tertiary health services to their populations. The Project also fosters ongoing links between Pacific Island health personnel and their Australian counterparts, which further contributes to the development of a range of skills in the region.

4.3.3 Papua New Guinea Tertiary Health Services (PNG-THS) Project

The Project provides a range of clinical services to Papua New Guinea, while simultaneously contributing to the training and development of local surgical and medical staff through a dedicated approach to teaching and skills transfer. In 2004, 23 volunteer teams provided clinical and training services in PNG.

Specialist medical teams visit major and provincial centres, delivering services in the following specialties:

- Cardiac Surgery
- ENT
- Gynaecology
- Neurosurgery
- Orthopaedic Surgery
- Ophthalmology
- Paediatric Surgery
- Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery (including Oral and Maxillo-Facial)
- Urology

PNG’s self-sufficiency in the delivery of tertiary health services is constantly improving, facilitated by the Project’s ongoing emphasis on the training of local surgical and medical personnel. In 2004 the Project graduated the first local Neurosurgeon in PNG, as well as the region, the country’s second Paediatric surgeon and its seventh Orthopaedic surgeon.

The Project has fostered strong links with the University of PNG, School of Medicine and Health Sciences, each visiting surgical team is accompanied by PNG counterparts and at least one major training workshop (such as CCfISP or EMST) is conducted annually.

4.3.4 Medical Equipment Maintenance Project in the Pacific (MEMPP)

The Project supports seven Pacific Island Countries in the provision and maintenance of medical equipment. Activities are designed to improve procurement and equipment management practices, reliability and operational accuracy of medical equipment and the technical skills of local equipment technicians.
The Project deploys technical advisors to maintain and repair medical equipment and to provide on-the-job training for local staff. Formal training is also provided to selected local personnel through an Annual Workshop and short term electronics course.

The Project also facilitates the purchase of spare parts, basic tools and test equipment required by local technicians in the Pacific region.

4.3.5 International Scholarships

A number of College Scholarships are set up to assist the development of education of medical personnel in neighbouring countries.

Rowan Nicks Scholarship

This prestigious scholarship is offered annually to young surgeons from selected developing countries who have shown particular promise and are destined to be leaders in their own countries. The scholarship is tenable for up to a year in either Australia or New Zealand, in an institution where young surgeons will learn the craft of surgery and also become involved in teaching, research, and administration.

A Neurosurgeon from Laos and a Urological trainee from Papua New Guinea were the Rowan Nicks scholars in 2004.

Surgeons International Award

This award provides for short-term visits to Australia by worthy individuals identified by teams participating in the College’s International Projects.

The objective is to support doctors, nurses or other health professionals from underprivileged backgrounds to visit one or more Australian hospitals for the purpose of acquiring knowledge, skills and contacts needed for the promotion of improved health services in their own country. This grant facilitated the final training of Papua New Guinea’s first Neurosurgical trainee in 2004.

Weary Dunlop Boon Pong Exchange Fellowship

These fellowships provide valuable training experiences for young Thai surgeons selected by the Thai College.

In 2004 four Thai scholars undertook apprenticeship based training Australian hospitals, took part in surgical meetings and audits and attended lectures relevant to their surgical interests.

International Travel Grant for Asia Pacific Surgeons

The Grant enables recipients to attend the Annual Scientific Congress of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons and for hospital visits in the host city. Up to three Grants are awarded annually to outstanding surgeons from the Asia Pacific region, who are not Fellows of the College.

In 2004, four surgeons, one from Micronesia, two from Papua New Guinea, and one from Vanuatu were brought to attend the ASC and participate in the International Forum.
4.3.6 Project China

Project China is an exchange program between Fellows of the College and the surgical fraternity in China. It was founded by Mr Gordon Low, AM, FRACS, in 1992. Since its inception, sixty-five surgeons and associated specialists in twenty-six teams have visited eleven Chinese hospitals. At the same time, forty surgeons and associated colleagues have visited Australia under this Project.

During 2004, the activities of Project China were curtailed by the outbreak of SARS in China the previous year. However, two Heads and Neck/Oto-Rhino-Laryngeal surgeons, Mr Vincent Cousins and Mr Peter Thomson, both of Victoria, visited Guangzhou and Changsha in February and September respectively. Visitors from China included an operating room nurse Ms Zhao Tiyu from Wuhan, Hubei, an ophthalmologist, Professor Xie Hanping from Chongqing, and an urologist surgeon, Professor Huang Jian of Guangzhou, who attended the Annual Victorian State Meeting of Australian Urological Society in October.

New contacts were established with the following hospitals:

- The Sir Run Shaw Hospital, Hangzhou
- The First People’s Hospital of Yunnan Province, Kunming
- The First Teaching Hospital of the Kunming Medical College, Kunming

Project China co-sponsored the 3rd Sino-Australia/New Zealand (RACS) Conference on Surgical Oncology held in Guangzhou in November. Fellows of the College presented seven papers at the Conference. It was a very successful meeting. The first reunion dinner for past participants and friends of Project China was held after the Conference. Many had to travel long distances from other parts of China. It was a well-attended and happy occasion.

All exchange programs of Project China are financed by private donations from Hong Kong, Australia, Canada and the United Kingdom. The first donation from China to the Project was received at the end of 2004.

4.3.7 Interplast

Interplast Australia is a non profit company founded in 1983 as a partnership between the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons and Rotary District 980 to provide assistance with the development of plastic and reconstructive surgery services to neighbour developing countries.

In 2003-2004, Interplast voluntary teams conducted 22 service programs to 16 countries and performed a total of 983 operations with the assistance of local surgeons and nursing staff. Emphasis is placed on improving the skills of local practitioners, although in many countries visited by Interplast there are insufficient or no local specialists to treat the many patients suffering cleft lip and palate deformities and burn scar contractures.

Interplast sponsored trainees from Indonesia and Myanmar to undertake training programs at Australian hospitals under the guidance of Australian plastic surgeons. A total of six trainees will be sponsored from Myanmar and they will become the core of the teaching staff when a local sub-specialist program is introduced within the next three years.

Interplast teams conducted visits to the Pacific and Papua New Guinea under the AusAID-funded Tertiary Health Services programs managed by the College.
Donations from Rotary and the general public exceeded previous years enabling Interplast to respond to invitations received from Bangladesh and Tanzania in providing assistance to develop plastic and reconstructive surgery to these countries.

### 4.4 RESEARCH AND SCHOLARSHIPS

#### 4.4.1 Bequests, Gifts and Sponsorship

The College gratefully acknowledges the scholarships and fellowships funded by generous gifts from individuals, families and organisations listed below.

**John Mitchell Crouch Fellowship**

The John Mitchell Crouch Fellowship is awarded to an individual who, in the opinion of Council, is making an outstanding contribution to the advancement of surgery or to fundamental scientific research in this field. The Fellowship was established in 1978 following a generous donation by Mrs Elisabeth Unsworth and commemorates the memory of her son, John Mitchell Crouch, a Fellow of the College, who died in 1977 at the age of 36.

**Professor Jeffrey Rosenfeld** – $55,000. Professor Jeffrey Rosenfeld, a Fellow of the College since 1984, is currently the Director of the Department of Neurosurgery at the Alfred Hospital and Monash University and is also Professor of Neurosurgery in the Division of Surgery at the University of Papua New Guinea. His current research interests include: the monitoring, modeling and laboratory investigation of traumatic brain injury; microdialysis following severe traumatic brain injury; the preventability of head injury morbidity and mortality following motor vehicle accidents; the efficacy of decompressive craniectomy following severe traumatic brain injury; the effects of head injury on the intellectual development of children; hypothalamic hamartoma surgery to control gelastic epilepsy; and Parkinson’s Disease and Movement Disorder. Professor Rosenfeld has utilised this Fellowship to continue his research into traumatic brain injury.

**The Sporting Chance Cancer Foundation**

The Sporting Chance Cancer Foundation was established in 1997 to provide scholarships to encourage doctors to develop ideas to better fight cancer.

**Mr Mark Clayer** – Raelene Boyle Scholarship: $30,000 (also supported by an Australian Orthopaedic Association Research Foundation Project Grant). Mr Clayer obtained his MBBS in 1985 at The University of Adelaide and became a Fellow of the College in 1996. He has used his Scholarship to research “a molecular differentiator between Chondrosarcomas and Enchondromas.”

**Dr Matthew Brown** – Raelene Boyle Scholarship: $30,000 stipend plus $5,000 departmental maintenance. Dr Brown completed his MBBS in 2000 at The University of Western Australia and has successfully completed his Basic Surgical Training. He has utilised his Scholarship to undertake research on “CpG-ODN/tumour lysate vaccination in renal cell carcinoma” under the supervision of Mr Justin Vivian.
AstraZeneca Upper GI Research Grant

The AstraZeneca Upper GI Research Grant was established in 1999 and is awarded to support research, either clinical or laboratory, in the field of Upper GI Surgery.

Mr Jonathan Koea – $10,000. The AstraZeneca Upper GI Research Grant for 2004 has been awarded to Mr Jonathan Koea who is currently Clinical Associate Professor of Surgery at Auckland Hospital. Mr Koea has used this grant to undertake a research project on “the oncological consequences of hepatic mobilisation: detection of tumour cells in blood of patients undergoing hepatic resection for colorectal cancer metastases” at Auckland Hospital.

Plastic and Reconstructive Surgical Research Award

The Plastic and Reconstructive Surgical Research Award is funded by the Australian Society of Plastic Surgeons and the New Zealand Association of Plastic and Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgery to promote and support plastic surgical research and to encourage specialist trainees and recent Fellows to undertake postgraduate research studies.

Mr Jeremy Simcock – $25,000 (also supported by an APA scholarship). Mr Simcock completed his MBChB in 1993 at The University of Otago and was made a Fellow of the College in 2003. He has utilised this Award to conduct research on “vascular precursor cells as targeted delivery vehicles in vascularised tissue engineering” under the supervision of Dr Erik Thompson.

Lumley Exchange Fellowship

The Fellowship is designed to enable a Fellow or Trainee of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons to spend a year undertaking research in the United Kingdom and for a Fellow or a Trainee of the Royal College of Surgeons of England to similarly spend a year in Australia or New Zealand.

Dr Susan Neuhaus – $40,000. Dr Neuhaus obtained her MBBS in 1989 at The University of Adelaide and was made a Fellow of the College in 2003. She has utilised this Scholarship to conduct research on gastrointestinal stromal tumours and to take up a post-graduate position as a Clinical Fellow in Surgical Oncology in the United Kingdom.

Stuart Morson Scholarship in Neurosurgery

The Stuart Morson Scholarship in Neurosurgery has been established following a generous donation from Mrs Elisabeth Morson in memory of her late husband. This Scholarship is designed to assist young neurosurgeons to spend time in Australasia or overseas to undertake further research or training.

Mr Adrian Nowitzke – $20,000. Mr Nowitzke obtained his MBBS in 1991 from The University of Queensland and was made a Fellow of the College in 2000. He has utilised this Scholarship to travel to the United Kingdom where he has undertaken training in the acute management of spinal cord injury.

Margorie Hooper Scholarship

This Scholarship arose from a bequest by the late Margorie Hooper of South Australia and was first awarded in 1992. The Scholarship is awarded specifically to South Australian trainees and Fellows to enable them to undertake postgraduate studies, either in Australia or overseas.

Mr Ahmad Aly – $30,000. Mr Aly obtained his MBBS in 1992 from The University of Melbourne and was made a Fellow of the College in 2002. His has utilised this Scholarship to travel to the United Kingdom to obtain specialist training in Upper Gastrointestinal Surgery.
Sir Roy McCaughey Research Fellowships

These Fellowships arose following a bequest by the late Sir Roy McCaughey, a grazier in the Riverina district of southern New South Wales. The husband of Sir Roy’s niece, Murray Pheils, persuaded him to donate funds to a number of charitable bodies, including RACS. Research under these Fellowships must be conducted in New South Wales.

Dr Yishay Orr – $32,000 stipend and $5,000 departmental maintenance (25% of this fellowship has been funded by the scholar’s research department). Dr Orr completed her MBBS at The University of New South Wales in 1999 and is currently an Specialist Surgical Trainee in Cardiothoracic Surgery. She has utilised this Fellowship to conduct research in “neutrophils and the post-operative inflammatory response to cardiac surgery” under the supervision of Associate Professor Len Kritharides.

Hugh Johnston Travel Grant

This travel grant arose from a bequest of the late Eugenie Johnston in memory of her husband, Hugh Johnston and was first awarded in 2002.

Dr Rodney Allan – $3,500. Dr Allan obtained his MBBS in 1994 from The University of New South Wales and is currently an Specialist Surgical Trainee in Neurosurgery. He has used this Grant to travel to Canada to undertake a two year Fellowship in Neurovascular Therapy.

Dr Richard Bittar – $3,500. Dr Bittar obtained his MBBS in 1994 from The University of Sydney and is currently an Specialist Surgical Trainee in Neurosurgery. He has utilised this Grant to travel to the United Kingdom and France to gain expertise in the treatment of movement disorders such as Parkinson’s Disease and cervical dystonia. He has used this Grant to travel to Canada and undertake a fellowship in complex spine surgery.

Dr Simon Moten – $3,500. Dr Moten obtained his MBBS in 1991 from The University of Adelaide and is currently an Specialist Surgical Trainee in Cardiothoracic Surgery. He has utilised this Grant to travel to the United States to gain experience in mitral valve repair and minimally invasive surgery, including video-assisted and robotic surgery.

4.4.2 Foundation Gifts

The RACS Foundation continues to support surgical research due to hundreds of donations, mostly from Fellows of the College, but also from other individuals with a desire to benefit surgical research. The College wishes to thank all those who contribute to the Foundation.

Surgeon Scientist Scholarship

Dr Daniel Croagh – $32,000 stipend and $10,000 departmental maintenance. Dr Croagh obtained his MBBS in 1997 at The University of Melbourne and is currently an Specialist Surgical Trainee in General Surgery. He has used his Scholarship to “investigate the role of oesophageal stem cells in the pathogenesis of Barrett’s Disease” under the supervision of Professor Robert Thomas and Dr Wayne Phillips.

Dr Michael Findlay – $14,545 stipend and $10,000 departmental maintenance (also supported by a Melbourne Research Scholarship). Dr Findlay completed his MBBS in 1997 at The University of Queensland and is currently an Specialist Surgical Trainee in Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery. He has utilised his Scholarship to conduct research on “defining the differentiasome – exploring the role of the local tissue microenvironment versus introduced
components in controlling tissue differentiation for tissue reconstruction” under the supervision of Professor Wayne Morrison.

**Dr Alfred Hing** – $32,000 stipend plus $10,000 departmental maintenance (25% of this scholarship has been funded by the scholar’s research department). Dr Hing completed his MBBS in 1999 at The University of Sydney and has been accepted into Specialist Surgical Training in Cardiothoracic Surgery. He has utilised his Scholarship to study “heart transplantation after short and long term preservation of the porcine heart” under the supervision of Associate Professor Peter Macdonald.

**Dr David Holthouse** – $32,000 stipend plus $10,000 departmental maintenance. Dr Holthouse completed his MBBS in 1995 at The University of Western Australia and is currently an Specialist Surgical Trainee in Neurosurgery. He has utilised his Scholarship to continue research on “the role of tumour suppressor genes in primitive neuroectodermal tumours” under the supervision of Dr Peter Dallas.

**Dr Mehrdad Nikfarjam** – $32,000 plus $10,000 departmental maintenance. Dr Nikfarjam completed his MBBS in 1997 at Monash University and is currently an Specialist Surgical Trainee in General Surgery. He is using his Scholarship to conduct research on the “treatment of liver tumors” under the supervision of Professor Chris Christophi.

**Dr Harshita Pant** – $32,000 stipend plus $10,000 departmental maintenance (25% of this scholarship has been funded by the scholar’s research department). Dr Pant completed her MBBS in 1997 at Flinders University and is currently an Specialist Surgical Trainee in Otolaryngology, Head and Neck Surgery. She has utilised her Scholarship to conduct research on “the role of fungi in the development of Eosinophilic Mucin Chronic Rhinosinusitis (EMCRS)” under the supervision of Dr Peter Macardle.

**Dr Sandrine Roman** – $32,000 stipend plus $10,000 departmental maintenance (25% of this scholarship has been funded by scholar’s research department). Dr Roman completed her MBBS in 1995 at The University of Sydney and is currently an Specialist Surgical Trainee in Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery. She has utilised her Scholarship to study “endothelial progenitor stem cells in reconstructive flaps” under the supervision of Dr Robert Lindeman.

**Mr Janindra Warusavitarne** – $32,000 stipend plus $10,000 departmental maintenance. Mr Warusavitarne completed his BMed in 1995 at The University of Newcastle and was made a Fellow of the College in 2003. He has utilised his Scholarship to research the “effect of restoring TGF B function on metastasis of colorectal cancer cells” under the supervision of Associate Professor Margaret Schnitzler.

**Fellowship in Surgical Education**

This is a joint Fellowship established by RACS and the Department of Surgery at the University of Toronto to fund a Fellow or Specialist Trainee wishing to undertake a Masters in Surgical Education at the Centre for Research in Education at the University of Toronto, Canada.

**Dr Carol-Anne Moulton** – $50,000 stipend. Dr Moulton completed her MBBS at The University of Melbourne in 1992 and was made a Fellow of the College in 2001. She is utilising her Fellowship to complete a Masters of Surgical Education.

**RACS Foundation Research Scholarship**

**Dr Vanessa Blair** – $30,000 stipend plus $5,000 departmental maintenance (25% of this scholarship has been funded by the scholar’s research department). Dr Blair obtained her MBChB in 1998 at The University of Auckland and is currently an Specialist Surgical Trainee in
General Surgery. She has utilised her Scholarship to conduct research on “diffuse gastric cancer in New Zealand” under the supervision of Professor Iain Martin.

Dr Richard Flint – $30,000 stipend plus $5,000 departmental maintenance (25% of this scholarship has been funded by the scholar’s research department). Dr Flint completed his MBChB at The University of Auckland in 1996 and is currently an Specialist Surgical Trainee in General Surgery. He has utilised his Scholarship to conduct research on “urinary proteins in acute pancreatitis” under the supervision of Associate Professor John Windsor.

Dr John Rophael – $12,545 stipend plus $5,000 departmental maintenance (also supported by a Melbourne Research Scholarship). Dr Rophael completed his MBBS at The University of Melbourne in 1999 and has successfully completed Basic Surgical Training. He has utilised his scholarship to conduct research on “angiogenesis and adipogenesis in a murine model under the influence of VEGF and FGF2” under the supervision of Professor Wayne Morrison.

Dr James Thomas – $30,000 stipend plus $5,000 departmental maintenance (25% of this scholarship has been funded by the scholar’s research department). Dr Thomas completed his MBBS in 1996 at The University of Melbourne and is currently an Specialist Surgical Trainee in Orthopaedic Surgery. He has utilised this Scholarship to conduct research on “the role of Hypoxia Inducible Factor on vascular outgrowth in a tissue engineering model” under the supervision of Professor Wayne Morrison.

Dr Paul Smith – $30,000 stipend plus $5,000 departmental maintenance (25% of this scholarship has been funded by the scholar’s research department). Dr Smith completed his MBBS in 1996 at The University of Melbourne and is currently an Specialist Surgical Trainee in Neurosurgery. He has utilised this Scholarship to conduct research on “the role of dentate cell proliferation in repair following hippocampal damage” under the supervision of Mr Michael Murphy.

Dr Beata Niechoda – $30,000 stipend plus $5,000 departmental maintenance (25% of this scholarship has been funded by the scholar’s research department). Dr Niechoda completed her medical training in 1989 at The Medical Academy of Gdansk in Poland and is currently a Basic Surgical Trainee. She has utilised this Scholarship to conduct research on “in vivo bone and ligament regeneration in a rabbit using adipose derived stromal stem cells and bone morphogenetic protein2” under the supervision of Associate Professor William Walsh.

RACS Foundation ANZ Journal of Surgery Scholarship

Dr Tam Dieu – $30,000 stipend plus $5,000 departmental maintenance (25% of this scholarship has been funded by the scholar’s research department). Dr Dieu completed his MBBS in 1991 at Monash University and is currently an Specialist Surgical Trainee in Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery. He has utilised his Scholarship to conduct research on “Semaphorin 3a is a negative regulator of peripheral nerve and vascular growth” under the supervision of Dr Don Newgreen.

RACS Foundation New Zealand Research Fellowship

Dr Vishal Bhasin – NZ$30,000 stipend plus NZ$5,000 departmental maintenance (25% of this scholarship has been funded by the scholar’s research department). Dr Bhasin completed his MBChB in 1997 at The University of Auckland and has successfully completed Basic Surgical Training. He has utilised this Fellowship to conduct research on “tissue engineering of tissue regeneration: effect of microenvironment and stem cells on the regeneration of complex structures” under the supervision of Professor Bruce Milthorpe.
RACS Louis Waller Medico-Legal Scholarship

Dr Vinay Rane – $15,000 stipend plus $2,500 stipend. Dr Rane completed his Bachelor of Law in 1999 and his MBBS in 2001, both at Monash University and is currently enrolled in a Masters of Law program at Monash University and has been accepted into Basic Surgical Training. He has utilised his Scholarship to investigate the “medical and legal aspects of adverse events in surgery” under the supervision of Professor David Watters.

Travelling Fellowships

Mr Gabriel Lee – $5,000. Mr Lee obtained his MBBS in 1995 from The University of Adelaide and was made a Fellow of the College in 2004. He has used this Fellowship to travel to Toronto to take up a Spinal Fellowship to improve his techniques of spinal reconstruction.

Mr Marinis Pirpiris – $5,000. Mr Pirpiris obtained his MBBS in 1992 from The University of Melbourne and was made a Fellow of the College in 2003. He has utilised this Fellowship to travel to America, England and Italy to visit paediatric, adolescent and adult orthopaedic reconstructive units to increase his competency in treating deformities of the hip and lower limb.

Mr Kris Rasiah – $5,000. Mr Rasiah obtained his MBBS in 1992 from The University of Sydney and was made a Fellow of the College in 2002. He has used this Fellowship to travel to the United Kingdom and the United States to acquire further specialist skills in the surgical management of major urological cancers.

4.4.3 ASERNIP-S

The comprehensive annual report for Australian Safety & Efficacy Register of New Interventional Procedures – Surgical (which includes the Board of Surgical Research) is available online. The mission ASERNIP-S is:

- to provide quality and timely assessments of new and emerging surgical technologies and techniques. Services provided include systematic reviews, accelerated systematic reviews and technology overviews of the peer-reviewed literature, the establishment and facilitation of clinical and research audits or trials, the identification and assessment of new and emerging techniques and technologies by horizon scanning, and the production of clinical practice guidelines.
4.5 HONOURS AND AWARDS

Honorary Fellowship
Dr Mitchell Notaras
Prof Ernest Weymuller

The Gordon Trinca Medal
Dr Paul Woods

Sir Louis Barnett Medal
Prof Jim May

Certificate of Appreciation
His Honour Judge Wally Tutt

Award of Excellence in Surgery
Prof Graeme Clark
Prof Michael Lawrence Brown

RACS Medal
Mr Michael J. Jay

Court of Honour
Prof Gordon Clunie

Colin McRae Medal
Mr Allan Panting

RACS Surgical Research Award
Prof Reg Lord

Provincial Surgeons Awards
Mr Barrie Aarons

University of New South Wales
Degree of Doctor of Letters
Mr Ken Unsworth

Australia Day Honours

AC
Prof Graeme Clark

AO
Mr Victor Fazio

AM
Mr Michael Gorton
Prof Reginald Lord
Mr Alan Nicholls

OAM
Mr Franklin Bridgewater
Mr Peter Packer
Mr Robert Paton

New Zealand New Year’s Honours

ONZM
Mr Gavin Wilton

Queen’s Birthday Honours

New Zealand

MNZM
Barry Partridge

Australia

AC
Prof Sir Peter Morris

AO
Prof Leigh Atkinson
Prof Donald Simpson

AM
Prof Brian Buxton
Prof Andrew Kaye
Dr Clifton Maxwell
Prof Richard Vaughan

OAM
Ms Catherine Boaden
Dr Simon Hockley
Dr Graeme Southwick
4.6 SUPPORTERS

The College received $1,184,903 in donations from Fellows, private benefactors and corporate sponsors. In addition, it received $845,000 worth of in-kind sponsorships from industry supporters for its educational activities throughout 2004. The College gratefully acknowledges and thanks our generous corporate sponsors and benefactors.

Major Corporate Sponsors

- Affinity Healthcare
- Ansell
- ANZ Private Bank
- AstraZeneca
- Johnson & Johnson
- Kimberly-Clark
- Linvatec
- Matrix Surgical
- MedicVision
- Olympus
- Smith and Nephew
- Tyco Healthcare

Benefactors

- Prof R C Bennett
- The Eric Bishop Trust
- Mrs Marjory Edwards
- The Paul Mackay Bolton family
- Mr B P Morgan
- Sporting Chance Cancer Foundation
- Mrs Elisabeth Unsworth

The College also thanks and gratefully acknowledges the generous contributions made by Australian, New Zealand and international Fellows.

4.5 FELLOWSHIP ACTIVITIES

4.5.1 Annual Scientific Congress

Initially planned for Hong Kong the 2004 ASC was held in Melbourne. The decision to relocate to Melbourne reflected Council’s wish to showcase the ASC to our Asian neighbours and to illustrate to the College’s programme in education and training to the region. It was an outstanding success in every way.

Plenary Sessions were excellent as was the quality of the twenty separate sectional programmes with a good mix of invited speakers, selected free papers and poster sessions.

An outstanding Syme Oration was delivered by Professor Arthur Li, Minister for Manpower and Education, Hong Kong, and the new shortened Convocation format was judged a success. Another highlight was the Congress Banquet at the spectacular National Gallery Victoria joining “The Three Waiters” in “That’s Amore” and other opera favourites.
4.5.2 Rural Surgery

The Divisional Group of Rural Surgery represents the interest of those surgeons practising outside the metropolitan centres. It is committed to maintaining the highest standards of surgical care for the populations which live in regional, rural and remote Australia and New Zealand. It is serviced by the Department of Rural Services within the Division of Fellowship and Standards, which manages the Rural Surgical Training Programme, the Rural Locum and Vacancies Service, the Paediatric Surgical Outreach Assistance Program, projects funded under the Support Scheme for Rural Specialists and the Specialist Re Entry Programme. Recent initiatives have included a major policy on Safe Hours and Working Conditions for Rural Surgeons.

4.5.3 Medico-Legal Section

In 2004, the Medico Legal workshops 'Writing Reports for Court' and 'Expert Witness' were offered in Sydney and Melbourne. The Medico Legal Newsletter, a quarterly publication, continues to promote awareness of current issues and dialogue amongst section members.

4.5.4 Trauma Committee

Road Trauma: WHO Road Trauma Day – 7 April 2004 - provided an effective vehicle to raise community awareness of road trauma with the release of new and updated RACS Policies on Trauma which resulted in an active media campaign.

Education: Three successful DSTC courses were held in Australasia in 2004. 2004 also saw the introduction of a DSTC course being run in Portugal with members of the Australasian DSTC Executive providing help and guidance in running the course to the local surgeons.

Trauma & Disaster: A successful workshop was held in November focussing on how hospitals can respond better to a disaster. This provided an interesting and effective opportunity for over 50 registrants from multi disciplines to be involved in an information gathering exercise and was particularly useful in establishing important links and contacts for the future.

Trauma Verification - Benchmarking Trauma Care: In December 2004 a team of 4 multi-disciplined trauma professionals conducted a review of hospital acute trauma services in the Northern Territory as part of the Australasian Trauma Verification Program. This provided an excellent opportunity to showcase the Trauma Verification Program as well as providing important links for trauma professionals around Australasia.

National (Australia & New Zealand) Trauma Registry Consortium: the progress of this Australasian Trauma Registry has been a major break through in the development of trauma. The first report was published in 2004 incorporating 2002 trauma data collected from states, regions and territories throughout Australia and New Zealand. The main focus of this group in future will be to seek funding to ensure the ongoing aspect and permanence of this Registry.

4.5.5 Younger Fellows

The 2004 Younger Fellows Forum was held at Red Hill in Victoria. The Forum was a great success, with delegates enjoying the participation of guest delegates from the College of Surgeons Of Hong Kong. The Younger Fellows Committee reviewed proposals for the provision of the Preparation for Practice workshops. The successful tender was The Third Part. The ‘points scheme’ developed by Michael Warner and the 3+2 Working Party was presented to the Board in General Surgery, where it was favourably received. The scheme will be piloted in 2005.
4.5.6 Women in Surgery

The Women in Surgery (WIS) Committee aims to promote a career in surgery for all individuals. Over the past year the WIS Committee has been involved in a number of initiatives, including:

- conducting a successful WIS Breakfast at the Melbourne 2004 Annual Scientific Congress and growing interest in WIS booth on the College Boulevard (exhibition area).
- co-ordination of successful Women in Surgery workshop at the Australian Medical Students Association annual conference in 2004.
- ongoing involvement and contribution the development of the College’s Code of Conduct.
- lobbying for the establishment of a trainee advocate to support our surgical trainees.
### 4.5.7 New Fellows

| Aho, T.     | Gurgo, R. | Pleass, H. |
| Allard, B.  | Hanikeri, M. | Ranchod, P. |
| Alsaffar, A. | Harbury, R. | Renault, A. |
| Arumugam, E. | Hardidge, A. | Reynolds, J. |
| Ashton, L.  | Hassan, A. | Roadley, G. |
| Astori, I.  | Hau, R. | Salleh, R. |
| Atkinson, V. | Haxhimolla, H. | Samali, R. |
| Bariol, S.  | Houghton, D. | Schembri, M. |
| Barui, E.   | Houston, A. | SenGupta, S. |
| Basson, J.  | Hutabarat, S. | Sew Hoy, R. |
| Bauze, A.   | Iorgulescu, D. | Sitharathan, T. |
| Beban, G.   | Jaboury, I. | Snyman, C. |
| Bennett, J. | Jarvis, J. | Soares, D. |
| Bernard, S. | Jayachandran, N. | Sofield, D. |
| Bevan, W.   | Jefferson, D. | Steele, R. |
| Bingley, J. | Jithoo, R. | Stradwick, L. |
| Bittar, R.  | Joseph, D. | Strick, N. |
| Boorer, C.  | Joughin, K. | Szomor, Z. |
| Boseto, E.  | Journeaux, S. | Talbot, S. |
| Boyne, N.   | Kahil, T. | Tan, A. |
| Broadhurst, A. | Kearsley, J. | Taplin, M. |
| Brown, T.   | Keshava, A. | Tavakoli, K. |
| Busby, M.   | Kippen, J. | Teoh, W. |
| Carney, B.  | Kling, N. | Thomas, J. |
| Chan, C.    | Krupa, K. | Thomson, B. |
| Chan, K.    | Kumar, R. | Tykocinski, M. |
| Chin, K.    | Kuster, M. | Uren, B. |
| Christey, G. | Kwok, S. | Van Rooyen, P. |
| Claes, P.   | Lawson, R. | Vertzyas, N. |
| Clark, G.   | Lee, F. | Vijayasekaran, S. |
| Clarke, A.  | Lee, G. | Vokes, D. |
| Cook, A.    | Limbers, J. | Walker, R. |
| Coup, R.    | Maartens, N. | Wallwork, N. |
| Croxford, M. | Macgroarty, K. | Weight, S. |
| Dallalana, R. | McCormick, C. | Westcott, M. |
| D'Armours, S. | Mednis, P. | Whalan, C. |
| Dayananda, M. | Moot, A. | Whineray Kelly, E. |
| Dieu, T.    | Mosquera, D. | Whitehead, T. |
| Dolan, K.   | Moten, S. | Wignall, A. |
| Dorgeloh, U. | Mout, C. | Wilson, J. |
| Dorrington, R. | Murphy, C. | Wongprasartsuk, S. |
| Dowling, C. | Mutch, P. | Wray, A. |
| Duncan, W.  | Ng, W. | Yang, G. |
| Dunne, P.   | Norris, B. | Yeung, P. |
| Edwards, M. | Norsworthy, C. |  |
| Farooq, A.  | Oliver, M. |  |
| Ferguson, J. | O'Neill, J. |  |
| Fisher, T.  | Parker, G. |  |
| French, R.  | Parkinson, S. |  |
| Gaffield, J. | Paterson, J. |  |
| Gall, C.    | Pearson, S. |  |
| Gerarchi, P. | Penn, D. |  |
| Guirguis, M. | Peters, P. |  |
4.5.8 Death of Fellows

The College Council notes with regret the deaths of the following fellows during the year 2004.

Arumugasamy, N.
Barnett, J.S.
Beetham, W.R.
Bevan, N.
Bond, A.G.
Bremner, J.
Bromfield, D.H.
Chand, S.
Collins, C.T.
Crawford, W.J.
Davey, W.W.
Dick, E.T.
Dinning, T.A.
Easton, F.W.
Eddey, H.H.
Falloon, M.W.
Freeman, N.R.
James, V.A.
Jury, R.P.
Keller, K.H.
Kelly, J.P.
Kernutt, R.H.
King, P.
Kneale, B.L.
McGrath, P.J.
Myers, N.
Paton, R.
Ong, T.S.
O’Rourke, I.C.
Talbot, R.R.
Shiach, W.G.
Wardale, A.