



Australasian Podiatric Surgeon

NEWSLETTER / DECEMBER 2015



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Presidents Message

President's Report 2015

Dr Rob Hermann

Podiatric Surgeon

ACPS President

Firstly, I would like to state that it has been both an honour and a privilege to continue as College President into my final term of 2015-16. It is my pleasure to report on a year of progressive change in College structure, governance, surgeon education and political advocacy.



While we are always striving for advancement in the art and science of foot and ankle surgery, and while we continue to ensure the highest professional standards are maintained among our collective membership; this past 12-months has demanded relentless energy, resilience and

mental focus on two major initiatives - accreditation of the ACPS training program by the Australian and New Zealand Podiatry Accreditation Council (ANZPAC) and lobbying for Medicare funding for podiatric surgeons. As President, I have advocated for the College on these projects, in meetings with the Department of Health, to the Minister of Health, Hon Mr Peter Dutton (Oct 2014) and to members of federal parliament and the senate. I have represented the College to ANZPAC, the current Health Ministers - Hon Susan Ley - senior advisor, Mr James McAdams and the Podiatry Board of Australia. I haven't done this alone, and I'd like to pay special recognition to Dr Mark Gilheany, who has worked tirelessly with myself as co-project officer for these projects. Achieving Medicare funding will see the College placed in the best possible position to support the future growth of podiatric surgeons, and to benefit of all College members and most importantly, the public.

Over the past 12 months the College has successfully achieved ANZPAC accreditation. In order to achieve ANZPAC accreditation, a comprehensive restructure of the College has been completed. I'd like to thank the commitment of our College council members who dedicate their time for our profession. I'd also like to thank all broader College members, who continue to ensure that the various College committees and boards complete their role and function in a timely and transparent manner. A special thanks to external members of the College's boards and committee's - Dr Adam Bird, Dr Bob Cox, Paul Collier, Damian Mitch, Dr Lloyd Reed, Dr Simon Dimmitt, Joel Gurr, Andrew Schox, Andrew Saxton, William Kutcher, Stan Naylor and Mark Strickland.

I must also thank Mrs Pat Trubiano (Assistant Secretary), who continues to provide excellent support and assistance in all College matters and to all College members.

In addition to our strategic projects, I am proud of the introduction of the ACPS audit tool for our members. It has been an important benchmarking tool and serves to improve quality and safety of foot and ankle surgical practice. It is a vital pillar to support all education, peer review, training and policy activities. The College has a rare distinction from many other surgical colleges in that 100% of its active members are compliant with surgical audit data collection. Only through audit and activity and peer review, can we continue to aspire to improving surgical standards - and practice - of our Fellows. We are grateful to Dr Valerie Dobie for her work and dedication in her role as the College Audit Data Manager.

I am excited to announce that the College will have its next intake of registrars in 2016. The College anticipates a continuous national intake of registrars on a yearly basis. Developments in training and education over the last several years have been critical to ensuring the College continues to produce highly trained, mature specialist podiatric surgeons and leaders in the field of foot and ankle surgery.

In my final term as President, I will continue to devote all my efforts for the betterment of the profession of podiatric surgery and Fellows of the College. In the term 2015-16, I will work passionately to ensure that the value of podiatric surgeons in the Australian Healthcare setting continues to be recognised and that the College continues to strive to uphold the highest standards of podiatric surgical education and practice.

With the tireless efforts of past, present and future members of the ACPS, I know that the future for podiatric surgery in Australia is bright!



Dr. Robert Hermann delivering Presidents Report during 2015 ACPS annual general meeting.

Foot & Ankle Insight 2014

ACPS State Seminars Prove a National Success



Top Left: Dr. Mark Gilheany delivers lecture to Sydney podiatrists at the Park Hyatt on the Rocks.

Bottom Left: Seminar delegates mingle during a break in the seminar program at Melbourne seminar, Latrobe University.

Top Right: Dr. Robert Hermann thanks Mr. Artur Maliszewski of Footwork Podiatric Laboratory for their sponsorship and support of the Seminar series.

Below: Delegates sharing knowledge during the seminar program.

The College Foot & Ankle Seminars were well attended again in 2014, continuing the success of 2013. In 2014 the College held its seminar series in Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane, Adelaide and Perth. A total of 250 podiatrists and podiatric surgeons gathered to share knowledge on the assessment and management of acute ankle sprain and the diagnosis and management of chronic ankle pain associated with the unstable ankle. Attendee's enhanced their understanding, diagnosis and clinical management of commonly encountered but difficult to manage rear foot conditions such as adult acquired flatfoot deformity and tarsal coalitions.

College Fellows delivered an interactive program combining lectures, discussions and take home clinical pearls aimed to improve attendee's patient management and clinical diagnostic skills. ACPS President, Dr. Robert Hermann, believes the 2014 Seminar Series were a great success and notes the overwhelming positive response to the seminars content. Attendee's survey commentary confirms this, such as:

"I came away feeling much more comfortable about diagnosing and managing chronic ankle injuries thank you".

"It was great: The take to clinic cases and topics are helpful"

"Overall excellent seminar, highly recommended".

Again in 2014, the seminar series was proudly sponsored by Footwork Podiatric Laboratory. Without support from the Director of Footwork, Mr Artur Maliszewski, the College seminars could not have provided the high quality materials, food and venues. The Park Hyatt on the Rocks in Sydney was a highlight of the Seminar Series, where attendees soaked up the lectures and clinical pearls on complex foot and ankle conditions with the Sydney Harbour as spectacular backdrop. The College seminar committee extends its sincere thank you to Footwork Podiatric Laboratory for its continued support of its educational seminars.

The College also wishes to extend it's gratitude to the Foot & Ankle Insight Organising Committee and speakers who gave significant time and effort to provide high quality lectures and dynamic program:

2014 Committee

Dr Simon Smith
Dr Robert Hermann
Dr Peter Manuel
Dr Paul Armanasco
Dean Samaras

2014 Presenters

Dr Simon Smith
Dr Robert Hermann
Dr Peter Manuel
Dr Paul Armanasco
Dean Samaras
Dr Mark Gilheany
Dr Andrew Kingsford
Omar Baarini
Dr Paul Butterworth
Anthony Short
Artur Maliszewski
Dr Michael Taranto
Dr Nick Marino
Dr Frank Pigliardo
Dr Julie Tarnato
Lewis Citroen

2014 Sponsor

Footwork Podiatric Laboratory



News

ACPS Fellowship Training Accreditation

In February 2015, the College achieved accreditation with the Australian and New Zealand Podiatry Accreditation Council (ANZPAC) 2020. Subsequently, the Podiatry Board of Australia approved the ANZPAC decision. Accreditation requires ongoing reporting and the College training program must continue to meet all ANZPAC reporting requirements to maintain accreditation.

To achieve accreditation, the ACPS Fellowship training program underwent a process of evaluation including a detailed assessment against the relevant ANZPAC standard - *Accreditation standard for podiatric surgery programs*, ([http://www.anzpac.org.au/files/Podiatry%20Surgery%20Accreditation%20Standards%20\(Final\)%202012.pdf](http://www.anzpac.org.au/files/Podiatry%20Surgery%20Accreditation%20Standards%20(Final)%202012.pdf)).

What does it mean to be accredited? Successful accreditation represents independent acknowledgement that the ACPS Fellowship training program meets the minimum requirements of the ANZPAC standards in respect to the following domains; Governance Context, Post-graduate Students/Trainees, Curriculum and Assessment, Educational Resources and Program Evaluation.

This is an affirmation that the College graduates podiatric surgeons with the necessary knowledge, skills, professional attributes and ethics to practise podiatric foot and ankle surgery in Australia and New Zealand.

The road to ANZPAC accreditation included extensive review with

subsequent restructuring of College governance processes and organisational framework. This review process was undertaken by Professor Vin Massaro and his team at Massaro Consulting. Some of the more notable reforms include a significant increase in the number of external committee and board members, with greater representation of academia, executive management, medicine, law, accounting and community members.

The College would like to acknowledge the work of the accreditation project team as ANZPAC accreditation could not have been achieved without their dedication. In particular thanks go to team leaders Drs Robert Hermann and Mark Gilheany.

Medicare Funding for Podiatric Surgery



ACPS President, Dr. Rob Hermann, thanking A.Pod.C CEO Mr. Damien Mitch for the logistical assistance provided to support the College MSAC submission.

The College continues to work on improving access and equity for podiatric surgical services.

Most significant in this regard has been the application for access to Medicare funding. This has been a long term project with many preparatory elements culminating in a College application to the Medical Services Advisory Committee (MSAC) in 2011.

The Application seeks access to a discrete list of foot and ankle MBS item numbers, including MBS funding for clinically appropriate associated services, such as imaging, pathology, physicians and other surgeons. The College received constructive feedback from the MSAC in July 2015 and is continuing to work with the Department of Health towards a positive outcome.

There has been a number of points during this process that have involved public and stakeholder consultations. The College is also grateful to its lobbyist Ms Catherine

McGovern who has provided significant guidance and support. She has been the conduit to effective and constant consultation with the Department of Health and the Health Minister's office.

Resubmission of the application is imminent and the College is anticipating that the project will be finalised in the not distant future. This 5 year project has been the impetus for great change and improvement in the College structure and functions. If successful, achievement of Medicare funding for podiatric surgery will normalise the speciality and provide significant benefits to patients, the profession and the public.

Finally, the College acknowledges the financial assistance provided by the South Australian A.Pod.A and the logistical assistance received from the A.Pod.C. during this process. All members of the College are to also be congratulated for the significant individual financial and logistical contributions made to support this project.

Selection to the Training Program

In 2014 the College Selection Committee and Education Board worked towards ensuring the selection process for entry into the podiatric surgical training program is transparent and robust in identifying candidates with the abilities, qualifications, experience and emotional intelligence to enable them to perform all the required duties of a Podiatric Surgical Registrar. Members of the College were present during the ACPS workshops prior to the 2015 AGM to discuss selection initiatives and interview techniques. The College membership was grateful for the participation of Ms Andrea Bryce, of the Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences from Monash University who presented on the current practices and techniques in interview processes, as well as evolving initiatives in selection.

Entry into the ACPS Training Program is highly competitive and not all podiatrists seeking admission will be successful in obtaining a training position. A summary of the eligibility criteria includes general registration with the Podiatry Board of Australia, endorsement for scheduled medicines, two years of actual clinical experience working as a podiatrist, completion of an approved Masters degree, affiliate membership with the College, performance on the ACPS entrance examination, psychometric and motor skills testing, podiatric surgical clinical rotations, logbook of relevant clinical and surgical experience and finally, an interview process. For more information on entry into the ACPS training programme, please visit: http://www.acps.edu.au/selection_training.php.



Ms Andrea Bryce discusses selection techniques during the interview techniques course for members of the ACPS.

ANNOUNCEMENT

APPLICATIONS OPEN!

Australasian College of Podiatric Surgeons Registrar Programme - 2016 Intake

The ACPS invites candidates to register for eligibility for the 2016 intake. Applications are open for 2 training positions. It is anticipated that training positions will commence in May 2016.

In order to apply for a training position, candidates must have met the minimum eligibility criteria for selection and submit an Application for Registration for a Training Position form. The minimum eligibility criteria for selection can be found at the ACPS website, under the section: Selection and Training > Eligibility and Selection http://acps.edu.au/s_t_eligibility.php

Selection into the Training Programme is governed by the principles of equal opportunity, and will be based solely on merit. The selection process is designed to identify the abilities, qualifications, experience and emotional intelligence of applicants that would enable them to perform all the required duties of a surgical registrar, achieve all the objectives of the Training Programme and become a skilled and highly competent podiatric surgeon.

For further information on selection into the ACPS training programme, please contact the ACPS office:
podiatric.surgeons@rsmi.com.au

Congratulations to our New Fellows



Dr. Ozan Amir, Fellow of the Australasian College of Podiatric Surgeons

The Australasian College of Podiatric Surgeons (ACPS) is pleased to congratulate Dr. Ozan Amir and Dr. Clayton Clews who have achieved Fellowship of the ACPS.

We appreciate the journey to Fellowship is a lengthy process, including a 4-year undergraduate Podiatry degree, a minimum 2-years' internship in general podiatry, a Master degree and formal surgical training program. Throughout the surgical training program, successful Candidates have had exposure to approximately 400-500 surgical procedures per year in theatre, spent extended periods of time on surgical rotation both interstate and internationally in the USA and UK at accredited surgical training facilities

in tertiary hospitals. Candidates participate as working members of a multi-disciplinary team approach to the treatment and management of complex foot and ankle pathology, often working alongside surgeons and registrars from other disciplines, who are all learning from each other in an environment conducive for education and training in a truly collaborative approach.

The College looks forward to the progression to Fellowship of more registrars in 2016.

Directorate of Podiatric Surgery Conference UK 2015

Australian podiatric surgeons were in attendance, as well as presenting, at the Directorate of Podiatric Surgery Conference - Meeting the Challenge - at Warwick University in the United Kingdom. There were upwards of 150 delegates, from the UK, Europe, Australia, North America and South Africa.

Fresh frozen cadaver workshops were held the day prior to the conference to practice techniques with new fixation devices and gain pearls from our key note Speaker Dr Thomas Chang DPM, author of Master Techniques in Podiatric Surgery: The Foot and Ankle. The conference chair, Dr Ben Yates, delivered a plenary with a mix of keynote addresses, local and invited speakers as well as hands on workshops. The quality of presentations was excellent and the discussion was very lively after each session.

ACPS President, Dr Robert Hermann and Chair of the ACPS International Committee, Dr Andrew Van Essen, met with Dean of Podiatric Surgery & Chair of Committee of the Directorate of Podiatric Surgery, Dr Hadyn Kelly, and members from the Directorate of Podiatric Surgery. This meeting of podiatric surgeons from across the globe helped strengthen international ties with the ACPS.



ACPS President, Dr Robert Hermann (right) and Chair of the ACPS International Committee, Dr Andrew Van Essen (second right) with ACPS United Kingdom Preceptor and podiatric surgeon, Dr Ben Yates (second left) and podiatric surgeon, Dr Matthew Cichero (left).

Enjoy the Benefits of Affiliate Membership with the ACPS



Enhance your knowledge and clinical management of your patients with affiliate membership with the Australasian College of Podiatric Surgeons!

The ACPS offers a separate membership category (Affiliate) to registered podiatrists and other healthcare practitioners who may wish to gain broader clinical experience within a mentored environment, expand their scope of practice or develop skills that will assist an application into a surgical training program.

Enjoy the Benefits!

- > Priority access to ACPS sponsored courses and continuing professional development
- > Access to scheduled medicines training
- > Assist Fellows of the ACPS at operations
- > Access to affiliate members area
- > eCase Notes
- > ACPS Photo Library

Affiliates are non-voting members of the ACPS. Applications for Affiliate Membership are considered by the Selection Committee. For more information, **visit the ACPS website, www.acps.edu.au.**

Life as a New Graduate Podiatric Surgeon

Peter Manuel FACPS

It seems like yesterday, when I recall completing my College exit exams in 2012. I was fortunate to go through my final examination process with my close colleagues, Dr Paul Armanasco and Dr Ozan Amir. Such a feeling of relief at successfully completing an extensive and rigorous training program and excitement at the prospect of preparing to start practice as a surgeon. I can now reflect back over the past 3 years and how life has changed.

As a registrar, surgery is all about gaining experience; developing the fine motor skills of a craftsman and sharpening my decision making and planning. The 6-years of training prepares us well, slowly gaining the skills ingrained in us from our mentors and supervisors. As a registrar, you always have your supervisor to turn to when critical decisions are required. But once graduated and out on your own, it is quite confronting knowing that you are now the one to make these decisions.

Based in Western Australia (WA), I was fortunate to have support network of 6 dedicated ACPS Fellows during my training. And now, as a fledgling podiatric surgeon in my own right, this college fraternal network is more valuable than ever. To have a team of colleagues only a phone call away certainly helps to provide a platform when making critical clinical decisions. They support us through difficult times and rejoice with us in the good times - across your entire career.

Geraldton is home for me. It is a regional city 430kms north of Perth and has only one private hospital. When I achieved Fellowship with the ACPS and subsequent AHPRA registration as a specialist podiatric surgeon, my thoughts naturally drifted to my very first theatre list. This builds an overwhelming sense of responsibility. I was now in charge of the operating theatre team, ensuring the necessary processes and systems are in place so that the patient journey is safe and efficient. To get through my first operating list and then review my first surgical cases was indeed a mixture of nervous excitement followed by nervous relief.

Geraldton has only 1 private hospital, built and managed by St John of God Healthcare. There is a strong orthopaedic presence in the hospital and therefore this required a good working relationship with hospital management. Thankfully Dr Nick Marino (podiatric surgeon) had already developed this during my Fellowship training. So much so, the hospital set up a position for me to be the assistant to one of the visiting orthopaedic surgeons. This was an amazing privilege and also a wonderful training experience. But more importantly it helped developed networks and break down barriers between our professions.

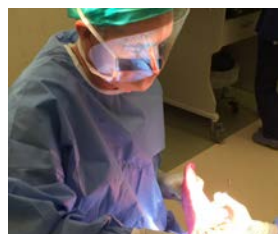
Now, after 3 years of practicing, I feel very much at home and supported in our hospital. It has a wonderfully dedicated theatre team and stable management. This has allowed me to grow as a person and surgeon. I am now able to bring cases of more complexity to theatre. It's also an exciting time to be in the profession. With ANZPAC accreditation, title protection, ACPS restructuring and hopefully MBS items in the near future, we can be sure podiatric surgery is continuing to ascend in the Australian healthcare setting. To this end, I enjoy dedicating my time to the ACPS Council to assist bringing these endeavors to fruition.

So my first few years has been a mixture of relief, excitement with a healthy dose of reality all thrown together. To be given the trust from patients to operate on them and manage their episode of surgical care is a truly humbling experience. However I feel honored to perform this noble craft with the support base of the ACPS and particularly the close-knit group of WA ACPS Fellows. A big part of this process is due to my incredibly supportive wife Larena and our three children. The future holds the promise of refining and learning new surgical skills, assisting the College where possible, spending more time with family and surfing the central west coast.

Top left: Dr Peter Manuel discusses the assessment and management of acute ankle injury at the Sydney ACPS Foot & Ankle Insight Seminar 2014.

Bottom left: Dr Peter Manuel performing Hindfoot surgery at St. John of God, Geraldton.

Right : Dr Peter Manuel (centre) with colleagues Dr Paul Armanasco (left) and Dr Ozan Amir (right) following his the Fellowship Exit Examination.



Fellow in Focus

Dr John Pickering FACPS

Dr Paul Armanasco

Dr John Pickering is one of the original members of the Australasian College of Podiatric Surgeons and is considered the founder of podiatric surgery in the Australia. At the age of 83, John is still a registered podiatrist and works part time in private practice in Gawler, South Australia. He currently resides in Port Elliot, South Australia, where he lives with his wife and, until recently, was enjoying farming beef cattle, sheep and venison.

Dr John Pickering grew up in the riverland region town of Berri in South Australia. He had always wanted to be a schoolteacher and was awarded a scholarship to go to college to train as a teacher. However, John ultimately trained as pharmacist and attained his pharmacy qualification in 1952. He then went on to study a diploma of Chiropody and graduated in 1957. For some time thereafter, John practiced as both a chiropodist and a pharmacist from the same location. In 1965, John was one of the founding members (representing South Australia) of the Australian Podiatry Council and he served as president from 1973-1976.

In 1975, John travelled to the USA and visited several colleges of podiatric medicine. He became good friends with a Dr James Bates from Temple University, Pennsylvania, and this friendship that would last many years. He recalls a defining moment in the trajectory of his career while away on this trip, whereupon he had the opportunity to observe podiatry residents performing 5th digital surgery for the management of recalcitrant corn formation. This was where John realised how surgery could be curative and a definitive means at addressing common foot problems that he encountered in his daily practice. Ultimately, John travelled extensively, returning to the USA another 12 times for training and surgical opportunities in the following 15 years.

John went on to perform his first operation under local anaesthesia in 1976. In 1982, John attained clinical privileges at Kianda Hospital and this opened the way for performing foot procedures under general anaesthesia. Of his early years in podiatric surgery,

John recalls that he "copped a bit of criticism" from the local orthopedic surgeons. Of his time in practice, John notes that: "They (orthopaedic surgeons) are not disposed to podiatric surgeons and never will be." He now suspects that the increase in foot and ankle training of orthopaedic surgeons relates to a push by their organisation to make sure that they attain a level of control over foot and ankle surgery.

John did end up becoming a teacher and has spent 32 years lecturing at the school of chiropody/podiatry at the University of South Australia from 1964 - 1996. John recalls travelling to Western Australia (WA) on numerous occasions to teach podiatric surgery. His dedication to education was recognized in 1998, when John received the order of Australia Medal for services in podiatry education and foot surgery. His advice for the podiatric surgeons of today and the future: "You need to make sure your work is of a very high standard".

After greater than 30 years of podiatric surgery practice, John has had much fulfillment from his career but one of his greatest achievements was starting the Australasian College of Podiatric Surgeons. John must pay special mention to his daughter Fiona who worked as his office manager and assistant for over 30 years and who was there right from the start of the college. In his own words:

"Nothing is quite like podiatric surgery."



Left: Dr. John Pickering, Fellow Australasian College of Podiatric Surgeons, Founding member of the Australian Podiatry Council, Order of Australia Medal.

Right: Dr John Pickering lecturing on the utility of podiatric surgery in the early 1980's.

Australian-United Kingdom Fellow

Australian podiatric surgeon becomes first Australian Fellow to achieve dual recognition with Faculty of Podiatric Surgery (UK)

Leah Cook FACPS

A unique milestone in the recognition of the ACPS on the international stage occurred recently, with Dr Matthew Cichero, becoming the first Australian ACPS fellow to be awarded Fellowship with the Faculty of Podiatric Surgery (FCPodS) in the United Kingdom.

International collaboration and training in podiatric surgery has, and continues to be, a cornerstone to the ACPS training program. The Great Western Hospital, Foundation Trust Hospital in Swindon, UK, was the first of such official collaborations, headed up by Mr Ben Yates, Consultant Podiatric Surgeon, in the Dept of Orthopaedics. Ten ACPS registrars have undertaken preceptorship rotations through this department since they began in 2004.

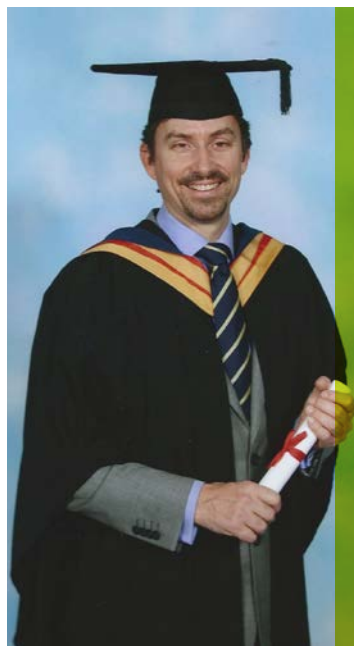
The traditional preceptorship rotation has included exposure to trauma, emergency, orthopaedics, vascular, rheumatology and endocrinology specialties. Beyond this, it has also provided an opportunity for ACPS registrars to present at the FCPodS (UK) meetings and conferences. Consequently, our registrars have been able to demonstrate their skills and knowledge to the surgical faculty in the UK.

Dr Cichero relocated to the Swindon in 2010, to complete his surgical training. In the process, he assumed the pilot position of Acute High-Risk Foot Co-ordinator, which subsequently became permanent in August 2011. Over a course of 3-years, Dr Cichero gained wide-spread respect by his UK peers, presenting at a number of surgical symposiums and Society conferences.

With over 3500 procedures logged during his ACPS fellowship training, and with the support of UK surgical fellows, Dr Cichero formally applied for reciprocity in 2013, and was officially granted FCPodS fellowship. Whilst this is a historic achievement, the final hurdle remains to achieve CCPST (Certificate of Completed Podiatric Surgical Training), which is a 3-year mentorship performing independent surgery, commencing from the time when you obtain your fellowship.

The ACPS has long held the belief and endeavour to formalise a memorandum of understanding with the FCPodS since 2008. The recognition of Dr Cichero will certainly help to advance dialogue in this regard.

Stronger international collaboration, particularly with countries such as the UK and USA, helps with knowledge sharing, education of registrars, certification, and accreditation. The recognition of Dr Cichero as a fellow of the FCPodS is evidence of the high regard that the ACPS training program is held in international circles.



Right: Dr Matthew Cichero following FCPodS Fellowship Award ceremony.

Left: Dr. Matthew Cichero presenting at the Society of Chiropractors and Podiatrist Conference, Bob Prince Memorial Lecture - Diabetic Foot Co-ordinator, Reducing Length of Stay and Major Amputations.

A Brief History of the ACPS - Part 1

What made the first podiatric surgeon want to be a podiatric surgeon?

It was a private trip, to United States (US) in 1975, that introduced the concept of podiatric surgery in an Australian setting. A South Australian podiatrist, Dr. John Pickering, then president of the Australian Podiatry Association (APodA) South Australia, was attending the American Podiatry Association (APA) annual meeting, in San Francisco. During this meeting, Dr. Pickering was invited to the Board of Trustee meeting and was asked to define podiatry in South Australia for his American colleagues. After recounting the state podiatry act, the APA executive director, Dr. S.Nyman asked, "so how long have you been doing foot surgery?" The South Australian podiatry act did not preclude surgical intervention by podiatrists and more specifically, the act outlined that "surgery" was indeed a prescribed treatment for the management of foot and ankle problems.

When Dr. Pickering replied, "well, we hadn't started operating yet...", he recalls that "the Americans were astounded and could not comprehend that Australian podiatrists were sitting on the best podiatry act in the world as far as scope of practice was concerned, and no one was cutting tendon or bones."

While in the US, Dr. Pickering visited each of then 5 Colleges of Podiatric Medicine. He observed podiatrists performing incisional nail surgery, bone spur removal and soft tissue mass excision under local anaesthetic (LA). This was quick and efficient and seemed to provide a long-term solution for pathology, which was treated by podiatrists in Australia with regular debridement, footwear "education" and padding or silicone shields.

In Australia at that time, Dr. Pickering recounts that there was a long and frustrating history of stoic disinterest from the orthopaedic community in foot surgery. This impacted on the clinical management of his patients. But most importantly, the lack of investment in foot surgery from the orthopaedic community indirectly limited patient choice for their foot and ankle care.

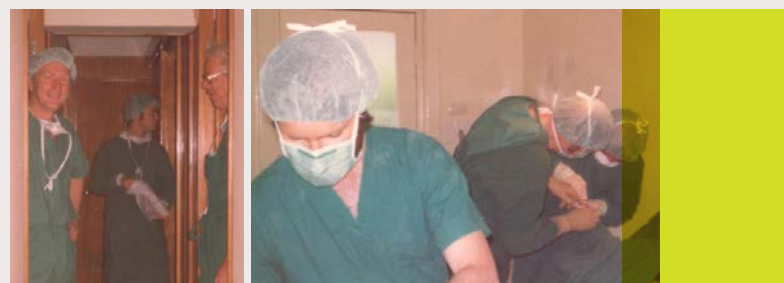
And like his US colleagues before him, Dr. Pickering did not see why podiatrists with adequate post graduate training could undertake podiatric surgical practice in Australia. Both Dr. Pickering, and another South Australian podiatrist, Dr. Bill Kutcher, were both interested in expanding the scope of practice of podiatry. In the 1970's biomechanics had begun to transform the practice of podiatry in Australia and around the world. With the impetus gained from the biomechanics revolution both Drs. Pickering and Kutcher agreed "it was time to do it" - expand scope to include surgical practice in Australia.

In order to operate on a foot in Australia, Dr. Pickering, recognised that adequate training and access to local anaesthetics (LA) would provide the foundation - and the necessary means - to perform foot surgery. In 1975, with the assistance of the late Dr. Hans Jordan, and with the advice of a member of the South Australian Health Commission (SAHC), a submission for the use of LA by podiatrists was submitted to SAHC. Unfortunately, the request for access to LA was repeatedly turned down. It was not until a high ranking politician visited Dr. Pickering's office, with a painful ingrown toenail in 1976...

The proposition of a slow and meticulous partial nail avulsion without LA was, not surprisingly, suddenly recognised as barbaric and most undesirable for patients. In less than one month, LA access for podiatrists across South Australia was achieved. Thus, with the means to provide painless, invasive foot procedures Drs. Pickering and Kutcher began performing nail surgery and digital osteectomy procedures in an operating room that Dr. Pickering had built within his practice. In addition, Dr. Pickering's practice happened to be located next door to a thoracic surgeon's office, Dr Tom Kelly. And so it happened, Dr. Kelly was happy to monitor Dr. Pickering and Kutcher's patients - providing x-ray, blood tests, medical evaluations and any other medical requirements during the peri-operative episode.

The College

In 1978, Dr. Pickering and Dr. Kutcher travelled to the US to further their surgical skills and investigate training for prospective Australian podiatric surgeons. While in Pennsylvania, Dr. Kutcher recalls being, "thrown in at the deep end when it came to procedures. We were handed a surgical case each to manage under supervision. John (Dr. Pickering) performed a neurectomy and I was handed a second metatarsal head V-osteotomy." Both cases proceeded uneventfully, with no post-operative complications and, "to our relief, patients reported little post-operative discomfort, (In my case I used a V-osteotome and hammer and fully expected some pain but the patient reported no pain)." So while both Dr. Pickering and Dr Kutcher might have been quite apprehensive about proceeding with what was essentially their first, more elaborate, foot surgery, "the American pods were so willing to involve us... and they armed themselves with an osteotome to knock our hands away if we looked like making a wrong move." This peer support and encouragement was amazing and gave them the confidence to proceed. Dr. Kutcher recollects, "like most procedures your first time is probably the most difficult and particularly for pods to turn the scalpel blade 90-degrees and make an incision was the biggest hurdle." Even now Dr. Pickering and Dr. Kutcher reflect on the generosity of their colleagues in the US at that time (1978).



Left: Dr. Bill Kutcher (left) and Professor Bob Rutherford (right) and Dr Chris Jerram (background) during the first Australian instructional surgical course in 1978.

Right: Dr. John Pickering and Dr. Pauline Barry perform foot surgery under local anaesthetic in 1978. Dr John Weir attends to patient notes (foreground).

During this sojourn, they attended a conference in Atlanta, GA, and met with Dr. Robert Rutherford DPM who had retired from the California College of Podiatric Medicine (CCPM) as Emeritus Professor of Foot Surgery. Following this meeting, Dr. Rutherford agreed to help train prospective Australian podiatric surgeons. He visited Adelaide in 1978, where he spent 3-months teaching foot surgical theory and practice. He provided supervision during surgical procedures. All procedures were performed under local anaesthetic and were mainly nail procedures, digital arthroplasties, and hallux valgus correction. At this time, seven other South Australian podiatrists, who had completed Dr. Rutherford's Australian course were brought together to form the first members (Fellows) of the ACSP. These members included Bill Kutcher, Valerie Dobie, John Weir, Pauline Barry, Barry Olesen, Max Corsalini and Chris Jerum. John Pickering was the inaugural president. This group of Fellows of the ACSP were termed the Pod 8 and the college itself was largely a South Australian entity. In the late 1970's, surgical training consisted of the 3-months theory and surgical practical training with Dr. Rutherford, who returned to Australia periodically for further teaching and instruction. All of the Pod 8 took opportunities to visit the US at New York, California and Pennsylvania Colleges of Podiatric Medicine.

The Australian College of Surgical Podiatrists (ACSP) was registered in 1976 and was incorporated under South Australian corporations law in 1979. Its constitution was modeled on the American College of Foot Surgeons (now American College of Foot and Ankle Surgeons).

The College Grows

In 1980 several WA podiatrists visited CCPM, undertaking lectures and practical training in foot surgery. In 1985, enigmatic podiatric surgeon Dr. Paul Wade DPM immigrated to Adelaide. He became a member of ACSP and in 1986 provided an intensive surgical theory course to a new group of young prospective surgical trainees in Adelaide and Victoria. At the same time, a post-graduate diploma in podiatry began in Western Australia. The post graduate diploma was endorsed by the ACSP as the requisite post graduate

qualification for its prospective trainees. In 1986 Western Australian surgical podiatrists Allan Bryant, Jenny Bryant and Lee Gray became members of the ACSP.

In the late 1980's an examining committee was brought together, consisting of Professor Lloyd Sansom (clinical pharmacologist), Dr Sid Adinis (anaesthetist), Dr. Pickering and Dr Kutcher, Dr. Wade and Dr. Hans Jordan. Trainees were now required to pass an oral examination in addition to practical assessment for successful membership with the College. During this time, the ACSP nomenclature was changed to the Australasian College of Podiatric Surgeons Inc. (ACPS).

In 1989, the ACPS became an affiliated body with the Australian Podiatry Council. The SA registration Board formally recognised the ACPS qualification in the same year. Other states have followed.

The First Scheduled Medicines

The negotiation for S4 drugs was a significant win for podiatric surgeons in South Australia in 1988. A meeting with the Minister for Health Dr John Cornwell resulted in a sub committee to examine a submission from the A.Pod.A.SA for scheduled medicines for podiatrists. The committee was formed of Dr Malcolm Collings, Dr Max Dunstone, Lloyd Davies (pharmacist), Professor Lloyd Sansom, Drs. Pickering, Jordan and Kutcher. The submission for access to scheduled medicines for podiatrists was torpedoed by Prof. Sansom, who had lectured in the undergraduate Podiatry course in SA. He could see no case for general podiatrists to prescribe S4 medicines. However, Prof Sansom did recognise that there was a surgical podiatry college providing surgical procedures to the public and they should be allowed to prescribe a limited list of S4 medicines. From this point, podiatric surgeons in SA could prescribe oral preparations of limited S4 medicines, including antimicrobials, non steroidal anti-inflammatories and codeine in combination with Paracetamol. This was another landmark event in pushing the scope of practice of podiatry and certainly facilitated an easier journey to the prescribing of S4 medicines across Australia. Today, an expanded list scheduled medicines are accessed by endorsed general podiatrists and podiatric surgeons.

Selected milestones in the history of the ACPS

1976	1978	1986	1988
The Australian College of Surgical Podiatrists (ACSP) was registered in late 1976 (South Australia).	First formal podiatric surgical training course in Australia held in Adelaide. First members of the College inducted, termed the Pod 8.	Formal set of guidelines for entry into the ACSP was established. Post graduate diploma is the benchmark university qualification for training.	Endorsement of limited S4 drugs for podiatric surgeons in South Australia.

The New Wave

In 1990, a young ACPS member Dr. Rob Hermann sought more advanced surgical training, particularly in reconstructive rearfoot and ankle surgery at the Podiatry Institute (PI) residency program in Atlanta. An informal dialogue was established between PI and ACPS via fax. Dr Hermann flew to Atlanta to complete the first mini residency (now termed preceptorship) alongside residents of PI. The Australian was warmly welcomed by residents Dave Calderella, Tom Chang, Luke Cicchenelli and Craig Camasta. Following Dr. Hermann, most of the ACPS Fellows completed PI mini residencies. An invaluable fraternal relationship between PI members and the ACPS was forged during these years, and still exists today.

Throughout the 1990's PI alumni visited Australia, providing extensive lectures and foot and ankle surgery tuition. The selfless efforts of Dr Luke Cicchinelli DPM and Dr Craig Camasta DPM were, and to this day, particularly significant.

The 1990's was a decade of major development of the ACPS. Of particular note, in December 1992 the title "Fellowship" was bestowed on members of the College. Newly qualified Fellows during this period included; Dr. Mark Gilheany and Dr Andrew Kingsford from Victoria, Dr Andrew van Essen and Dr Rob Hermann from South Australia, Dr Mario Horta and Dr Nick Marino from Western Australia.

Further development in post graduate university education included the introduction of Master degree with integrated practical training provided by the College. The Masters degree replaced the post graduate diploma as the academic benchmark for ACPS training.

By the late 1990's the ACPS had evolved education, training and scope of practice such that nomenclature also required updating. In 1998 re-incorporation under Corporations Law in Victoria as the Australasian College of Podiatric Surgeons was undertaken. The terms "podiatric surgery" and "podiatric surgeon" became the norm. From this point forward, trainee surgeons were titled "Registrars".



Top left: Rearfoot surgery is practiced in the Podiatry Institute cadaver lab during the first USA mini residency by an Australian podiatric surgeon 1990. From left to right: Dr. Craig Camasta DPM, Dr. Robert Hermann and Dr. Luke Cicchinelli DPM.

Top right: ACPS Fellows of the new wave period. Early surgical mission to Philippines in 1995. From left to right: Dr. Andrew van Essen, Dr. Paul Wade, Margaret Carty (background), Sinead Gilheany (foreground), Dr. Mark Gilheany, Dr. Robert Hermann and Dr. Andrew Kingsford. Son of the local Mayor (foreground), province of Laguna.



Bottom left: Dr. Luke Cicchinelli DPM visits Australia in 1993 and lectures in reconstructive foot and ankle surgery.

Bottom right: ACPS Annual General Meeting held in Adelaide in 1991. Dr Bill Kutcher, vice president (left) and Dr. John Pickering (right) chair the meeting.

1989

ACSP became an affiliated body with the APodC.

The South Australian registration board is the first regulatory entity to formally recognise the ACSP qualification

1990

First international mini residency (now termed preceptorship) and establishment of fraternal relationship with the Podiatry Institute in Atlanta, USA.

1996

College Fellows become involved in international surgical aid programs.

ACPS Fellows are the first foreign surgeon's officially sanctioned to perform reconstructive procedures on the underprivileged in central Vietnam.

1996

Master degree becomes the benchmark university qualification for eligibility of Fellowship with the college.

1998

Re-incorporation of the college under Corporations Law in Victoria to the Australasian College of Podiatric Surgeons. The terms "podiatric surgery" and "podiatric surgeon" became the norm.

Registrar Voice

Dean Samaras, Registrar ACPS

The year 2010 marked a year of great change and responsibility for me. I completed an extensive application process that included a passport to surgical training, entrance examination, interview process and emotional quotient and manual dexterity testing. I received news that I had been accepted into the ACPS fellowship program and that I was going to be a parent. I eagerly anticipated the challenges that lay ahead and buckled up for the ride!

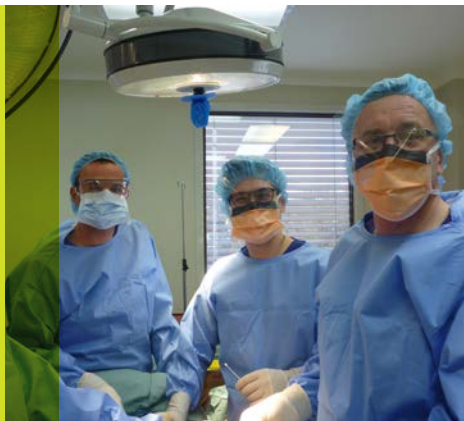
From the early stages of surgical training my supervisors fostered the concepts of critical thinking, life long learning, safe practice and teamwork. My research skills developed, and continue to develop, via regular scientific literature critique, case based discussion and clinical presentations. My research contributions were realised earlier this year with the publication of two papers in leading foot and ankle peer reviewed journals. This was a satisfying achievement and great learning experience.

Throughout my fellowship training I have been guided by many podiatric surgeons and other specialists including general, orthopedic and vascular surgeons in Australia, UK, USA and Asia. As a result, I've had the opportunity to develop my surgical skills across a range of traditional and advanced surgical techniques. Medical rotations in radiology, rheumatology, endocrinology, emergency medicine, dermatology, microbiology/infectious diseases, anesthesia and others have expanded my knowledge and helped build my diagnostic and management skills.

I have learned that becoming a podiatric surgeon requires perseverance, concentration and hard work, often under pressure. Although examinations have proven to be stressful, by far the biggest challenge has been maintaining a healthy work life balance. Thanks to the tremendous support from my wife and family, I remain as enthusiastic and excited about a career in podiatric surgery as the day my journey began.

Left: Dean Samaras (centre) during a surgical case with his supervising Fellow, Dr. Andrew Kingsford (right) and registrar Omar Baarini (left).

Right: Dean Samaras (second from left) during his UK preceptorship with Dr. Ben Yates, Podiatric Surgeon (left), Dr Matthew Cicherro, Podiatric Surgeon (right) and Dr. Beas Bhattacharya, Endocrinologist (second from right).



Surgical Outcomes of ACPS Fellows - National Audit 2013-14

Robert Hermann FACPS

The constitutional objectives of the Australasian College of Podiatric Surgeons (ACPS) includes determining and maintaining the highest professional standards amongst its membership^[1]. One of the mechanisms utilised to support these objectives is clinical audit. The ACPS has been actively engaged in clinical audit since the late 1990's.

Surgical activity of the College comprises recording all cases of foot and ankle surgery performed in office, day surgery and inpatient settings by Fellows of the ACPS. The ACPS Online Audit Tool was used to capture and report data in real-time. There has been 100% compliance in data capture by all active surgeons of the College since 2013 until the present.

The data presented in this report should be considered a "snap shot" of overall activity. It will form part of the final 2014 report following national peer review during the College AGM and final approval by the ACPS Clinical Audit Committee.

The 2013-14 audit data captured 1974 admissions for foot and ankle surgery performed by Fellows of the ACPS. There were 1981 procedures performed. Six procedure groups were selected to represent a cross section of all surgical activity based on criteria established by Menz (2) and utilised in the ACPS 2013 National Audit Report [1, 2]. The procedures selected represent the most common forefoot (1st metatarsophalangeal joint, lesser toes, neuroma and toenail), rearfoot, ankle and amputations procedures as shown in Table 1.

Procedure Group	Procedure count (%)
Toenails	421 (21%)
Lesser toes	205 (10.3%)
Neuroma	65 (3.2%)
1st Metatarso-phalangeal Joint (MPJ)	774 (39%)
Heel, Rearfoot & Tarsal Coalitions	22 (1%)
Ankle	32 (1.7%)
Amputation	11 (0.5%)

Table 1: Cross section of procedures.

Principle diagnosis	Diagnosis Count
Hallux valgus (acquired)	518
Hallux Limitus	103
Hammer toe, congenital	30
Other hammer toe acquired	232
Ingrown toenail	443
Wart	88
Morton's neuroma	80
Mech. comp. int. fixation. dev. bones limb	58
Osteophyte lower leg	42
Miscellaneous arthropathies - Osteophyte	31

Table 2: The most frequent diagnoses for foot and ankle surgery admissions by podiatric surgeons for 2013-14.

The selection of procedures outlined in table 1 represents 77% or 1532 procedures performed in 2014. Forefoot surgery comprised 74% (1465 procedures) of all activity performed. Rearfoot, ankle and amputation surgery comprised 3% (67 procedures) of all activity performed. The mix of procedural times and numbers found in this report concur with similar findings in the literature^[2-4].

The 10 most frequently recorded diagnoses using the International Classification of Disease (ICD 10) code is shown below in Table 2. A total of 1974 principle diagnoses were made relating to admissions with 1st metatarsophalangeal joint pathology the most frequent pathology identified.

The Australian Council on Healthcare Standards (ACHS) requires healthcare organisations collect complication data for 30 days after discharge. The ACHS requires data collection of complications such as deep vein thrombosis and infection only if readmission is required. The College collects data to record complications in line with ACHS recommendation. In addition complications that do not require readmission but occur within 30 days of discharge are collected.

In relation to complications, there were 5 cases (0.2%) that required readmission. Two cases were readmitted for management of medical complications (e.g. chest pain) and there was a total of 1 case of wound breakdown, deep vein thrombosis (DVT) and pulmonary embolus. A total of 4 cases (0.2%) developed DVT and 3 of these were managed in outpatient settings with 1 case requiring readmission. Using the ACHS definition of postoperative infection, the rate of infection requiring re-admission for 2014 was 0%. There were 45 cases (2.2%) that required outpatient management of infection. Thirteen cases (0.6%) developed wound breakdown and of these, 12 cases were managed in the outpatient setting. The above findings regarding complications are either within or below rates reported in the literature^[5-10]

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A Catalogue of Members* and Fellows of the Australasian College of Podiatric Surgeons

John Pickering	1978	Robert Hermann	1991	Angelo Salerno	2008
William Kutcher	1978	Craig Camasta (DPM)	1993	Julie Taranto	2008
Valerie Dobie	1978	Luke Cicchinelli (DPM)	1993	Simon Smith	2009
Pauline Barry	1978	Mark Gilheany	1994	Michael Taranto	2010
John Weir	1978	Andrew Kingsford	1994	Haydar Ozcan	2011
Max Corsalini	1978	Mario Horta	1994	Matthew Cichero	2011
Chris Jerram	1978	Nick Marino	1994	Peter Manuel	2012
Barry Olesen	1978	Andrew van Essen	1995	Paul Armanasco	2012
Hans Jordan	1978	Phillip Perlman (DPM)	1998	Paul Butterworth	2012
Paul Wade (DPM)	1985	Jeff Peters	1999	Joe Sutherland (DPM)	2012
Lee Gray	1986	Paul Bours	2007	Ozan Amir	2013
Alan Bryant	1986	Frank Pigliardo	2007	Clayton Clews	2015
Jenny Bryant	1986	Damien Lafferty	2007		
Elizabeth Jordan	1987	Leah Cook	2008		

*Note: Fellowship title was bestowed on those Associate and Ordinary Members of the Australasian College of Podiatric Surgeons in 1992.



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