RACS not involved re media claims of 2008 scientific conference presentation

The Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS) had no involvement in a presentation relating to a conference in 2008, which has surfaced in the media.

The presentation in question was not run by or in association with the College.

The presentation does not relate to the College’s training program.

It was reportedly given by a surgeon from overseas and was not by a surgeon trained in Australia or New Zealand.

If the presentation was as described, it was clearly in violation of any acceptable standard for a scientific meeting.

If complaints had been raised at the time, they would have certainly been investigated.

The College has reiterated its zero tolerance policy against sexual harassment and inappropriate behaviour.

RACS has established an expert advisory group to deal with concerns of bullying, harassment and discrimination in the health sector.

The group will review the College’s current policies and procedures, establish a reporting framework to capture issues and measure progress in dealing with them and will also address the College’s gender equity and act as a medium between the College and the hospitals/health departments to provide a way forward to eliminating bullying and harassment.

About the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS)
RACS is the leading advocate for surgical standards, professionalism and surgical education in Australia and New Zealand. The College is a not-for-profit organisation that represents more than 7000 surgeons and 1300 surgical trainees and International Medical Graduates. RACS also supports healthcare and surgical education in the Asia-Pacific region and is a substantial funder of surgical research. There are nine surgical specialties in Australasia being: Cardiothoracic surgery, General surgery, Neurosurgery, Orthopaedic surgery, Otolaryngology Head-and-Neck surgery, Paediatric surgery, Plastic and Reconstructive surgery, Urology and Vascular surgery.

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