Surgeons want more Indigenous doctors

Wednesday 6 May, 2015

Six Indigenous doctors and final year medical students interested in surgical training are in Perth this week as part of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS) 84th Annual Scientific Congress.

These prospective surgical trainees have been invited by the College to participate in the Congress’ educational program, network with Fellows and other professionals involved in surgery, and visit local Aboriginal health services.

They have also met with College leaders at the Indigenous Doctors’ Breakfast to share their views on leadership career pathways for Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and Māori medical professionals.

Lincoln Nicholls is a doctor at the Palmerston North Hospital in New Zealand with a keen interest in orthopaedic surgery. Lincoln served as Board Member of TeORA (the NZ Māori Doctors Association) from 2010 - 2011 and in 2013 served as a Regimental Medical Officer at the Kiwi Base, Bamyan, Afghanistan.

Mikayla Couch is a final year student at the University of New South Wales. Mikayla has worked as a researcher with the George Institute on Road User Safety in Indigenous Communities and with the Redfern Aboriginal Medical Service in Sydney.

Jamie-Lee Rahiri is a doctor at the Manukau Super Clinic in Auckland. She is also a Surgical Research Fellow at the University of Auckland and is working towards a PhD in Surgery and Hauora Māori.

Mitchell Sutton is a final year student at the University of New South Wales with a particular interest in trauma surgery.

Wiremu MacFater is a junior doctor with the Whanganui Hospital. He served as the clinical representative for the Te Oranga (Maori medical students association) 2012-2013 and currently provides mentoring to top Māori and Pacific scholarship recipients.

Artiene Tatian is a final year student at the University of Western Sydney and also completing a Master of Indigenous Health with the University of Wollongong. He is the current Australian Indigenous Doctors Association Director (Student) and President of the University of Western Sydney Medical Society. He also sits on the UWS Board of Directors - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Commission.

Their attendance is made possible by travel bursaries sponsored by the Foundation for Surgery, which is part of a suite of strategies identified by RACS to maximise the success of Indigenous doctors progressing into surgical training.

To arrange an interview with any of the participants, please contact:

A/Prof Kelvin Kong, RACS Indigenous Health Committee Chair on 0410 455 757
ROYAL AUSTRALASIAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS

MEDIA RELEASE

MEDIA NOTE: High res image available from greg.meyer@surgeons.org

Pictured from L to R: A/Prof Kelvin Kong - RACS Indigenous Health Committee Chair, Wiremu MacFater, Jamie-Lee Rahiri, Lincoln Nicholls, Artiene Tatien, Mikayla Couch, Mitchell Sutton, Kingsley Faulkner - Chair of RACS Foundation for Surgery.

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