ROYAL AUSTRALASIAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS
MEDIA RELEASE

Accessible simulated learning for Trainee Surgeons

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Easily accessible simulated training can promote learning for Trainee surgeons and has received overwhelmingly positive feedback according to a study in the latest ANZ Journal of Surgery.

Recognising the need for providing Trainees with simulation facilities to develop their skills, the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS) developed a program to provide access to state-of-the-art equipment and standardised training at the workplace in urban and rural areas.

Only 16 per cent of participants reported having access to basic simulation tasks at their workplace. Also, while some reported having access to facilities, others at the same hospital indicated not having access, demonstrating a lack of promotion of the learning devices available.

Other feedback indicated there was insufficient staffing and upkeep of devices, which deterred those wanting to use the facilities provided by the hospital.

Resident medical officers, surgical Trainees, Fellows and International Medical Graduates were invited to use the latest simulation devices within a Mobile Simulation Unit (MSU) when it visited six hospitals in South Australia, four in metropolitan and two in rural areas.

Fifty-five participants attended the program with 19 returning more than once and most reporting positive feedback and a favourable experience.

Lead author for the study Professor Guy Maddern said that the feedback from the program demonstrated the benefits of providing accessible simulated learning opportunities.

“It is clear that there is an unmet demand for simulation in hospitals,” Professor Maddern said.

“This study shows there is acceptance, and enthusiasm for more opportunities of learning through a simulated curriculum,” he said.

Read the full article

The ANZ Journal of Surgery, published by Wiley-Blackwell, is the pre-eminent surgical journal published in Australia, New Zealand and the South-East Asian region for the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons. The Journal is dedicated to the promotion of outstanding surgical practice, and research of contemporary and international interest.

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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