ROSYAL AUSTRALASIAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS

MEDIA RELEASE

Largest RACS Research Scholarship continues important legacy

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The John Mitchell Crouch (JMC) Fellowship has been supporting cutting edge medical research for the past 36 years and is the largest scholarship funded by the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS). An article in the latest RACS publication the ANZ Journal of Surgery, takes a look at its important legacy.

Born from a generous endowment in memory of the life cut short of a promising young surgeon, John Mitchell Crouch, the Fellowship aims to commemorate his work by supporting the research of outstanding surgeons.

The Fellowship has been key to funding a number of surgical research areas including new technologies, safety, and evidence-based medicine, and also contributed to the establishment of research centres.

The JMC has assisted bionic ear pioneer Professor Graeme Clark, Professor Peter Choong whose research has led to the development of a 3D printed titanium replica of an ankle (replacing a cancerous ankle bone), pioneering research in microsurgery by Bernard O’Brien and the establishment of a research institute in his name, now led by another JMC Fellowship recipient Wayne Morrison.

Before the Anaesthetists separated from the College the Fellowship was awarded to Professor Bill Runcimen, who used the funds to set up a laboratory examining the toxicity of carbon monoxide.

Recipient Professor Guy Maddern was spurred to ensure evidence-based surgical practice in his research into the efficacy of ablative electrolytic treatment in patients. This was the same year he also set up the Australian Safety and Efficacy Register for New Interventional Procedures – Surgical (ASERNIP-S, a division of the RACS), now a world leader in the evidence-based procedure space.

Recipients of the John Mitchell Crouch Fellowship have also received national honours including the New Zealand Order of Merit (ONZM) for Professor Graham Hill and an Order of Australia (AM) for military surgeon Professor Jeffrey Rosenfeld.

“As well as having published widely as a result of their inspiring and innovative approach to surgical research, many have contributed to society in other ways,” lead author Margaret Boult said.

“It should also be remembered that no individual works in isolation, but this clearly demonstrates the prestige of the Fellowship and the ongoing significance the research has made.”

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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