RACS launches Indigenous Web Portal as a valuable resource for Australian medical specialists

Friday 23 October 2015

The Network for Indigenous Cultural and Health Education portal (NICHeportal) will be launched at the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons in Melbourne at 4pm today with a special ‘smoking ceremony’ by an Elder of the Wurundjeri Tribal Council.

The NICHeportal is a project of the Committee of Presidents of Medical Colleges (CPMC) and is led by the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS) in partnership with the Australian Indigenous Doctor’s Association (AIDA) on behalf of the Specialist Medical Colleges.

Associate Professor Kelvin Kong will open proceedings, and invite an Elder from the Wurundjeri Tribal Council to perform the ‘Welcome to Country’ recognition.

Past Chair of the RACS Indigenous Surgery Committee A/Prof Kelvin Kong and RACS President Professor David Watters will talk about Indigenous health and how the portal has enabled new online resources to be specifically developed for Medical Specialists.

“The NICHeportal will be an important tool for the Specialist Medical Colleges as they endeavour to encourage more Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander doctors to undertake specialist training.

“The portal will be part of a suite of initiatives to prepare for a future with a greater emphasis on Indigenous health with improved cultural awareness and understanding,” A/Prof Kong said.

“The College views the NICHeportal as a valuable resource for Medical Specialists working in Indigenous health, and contributing to the goal of achieving health parity for all Australians,” RACS President Professor David Watters said.

The aim of the current stage of the project was to build a new NICHeportal that included:

• Search engine optimisation (SEO)
• Responsiveness to mobile and other devices
• Improved navigation
• Additional resources from Specialist Medical Colleges.

The Australian Government Rural Health Continuing Education (RHCE) Program funded the first two phases of the NICHeportal project, which resulted in the development of the NICHeportal website.

Further information on the NICHeportal can be found at www.nicheportal.org

Media inquiries: Greg Meyer
Manager, RACS Communications & Advocacy
(03) 9249 1263 Mob: 0429 028 933
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.

www.surgeons.org

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