MEDIA RELEASE

Verification of systems of care on the table during RACS Trauma Week

Tuesday 14 November, 2017

Qualifying a hospital’s readiness to accept trauma patients requires a stringent verification process, one that includes multiple assessments of processes and procedures as well as thorough examination of equipment. The quality of a hospital’s trauma ‘system of care’ could be the difference between injury and fatality, making the verification processes a critical talking point during RACS Trauma Week from 13-16 November.

The Trauma Symposium, to be held on Wednesday 15 November, will be hosted at the RACS head office, Melbourne and attended by Assistant Minister for Health the Hon. David Gillespie. Minister Gillespie will be joined by industry representatives, surgeons, doctors, nurses and paramedics, all keen to share their experiences of managing trauma in varying environments.

Minister Gillespie will also launch a series of posters that highlight important road safety milestones in Australia and New Zealand from the 1960s onward, and recognise early advocacy campaigns for road safety as well as the evolution of the RACS Road Trauma Committee.

RACS Trauma Committee Chair Dr John Crozier said that Trauma Week is one of RACS’s most significant events of the year, and along with educating health professionals, is a great way to strengthen community awareness of trauma and how it is managed.

“Trauma care covers all areas of care – from roadside to rehabilitation. The management of trauma doesn’t just stop once the patient is loaded into an ambulance, it continues right through to recovery,” he said.

The symposium will conclude with a Fundraising Dinner and Silent Auction, raising funds for the Damian McMahon Trauma Research Travel Grant. The evening will include the ‘Verification Cup’ – a Gruen-style debate with guests going head-to-head on all facts ‘trauma’. Hosted by Alfred Hospital’s Trauma Registry Manager, Louise Niggemeyer, this evening is sure to be a night to remember.

The grant, established in 2014, is awarded to the best trauma research paper delivered by a trainee at the Annual Scientific Congress (ASC). The prize is named in honour of Dr Damian McMahon, FRACS who died suddenly in 2012. Dr McMahon was an integral and influential member of the RACS Trauma Committee, Chair of the Trauma Verification Sub-Committee and a passionate educator of Trainees, especially in the area of trauma.

The event will be held in the RACS’s Hughes Room, named in honour of Sir Edward (Bill) Hughes CBE, RACS President from 1975-78, who was instrumental in road trauma prevention campaigns of the 1970s – helping to bring about legislation for mandatory seat belts, drink driving limits (.05) and mandatory bicycle helmets.

Registration and more information about 2017 Trauma Week

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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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