

# 2024 Year in Review

ACEM Annual Report



The Australasian College for Emergency Medicine (ACEM) is the not-for-profit organisation responsible for training emergency physicians and the advancement of professional standards in emergency medicine in Aotearoa New Zealand and Australia. As the peak professional organisation for emergency medicine in Aotearoa New Zealand and Australia, ACEM has a significant interest in ensuring the highest standards of medical care for patients are maintained in emergency departments across both countries.

### Vision

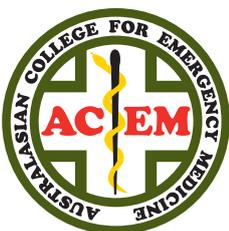
To be the trusted authority for ensuring clinical, professional and training standards in the provision of quality, evidence-based, patient-centred emergency care.

### Mission

Promote excellence in the delivery of quality emergency care to all of our communities through our committed and expert members.

The Australasian College for Emergency Medicine acknowledges the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation as the Traditional Custodians of the lands upon which our office is located. We pay our respects to ancestors and Elders, past, present and future, for they hold the memories, traditions, culture and hopes of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples of Australia.

In recognition that we are a bi-national College, ACEM acknowledges Māori as tangata whenua and Te Tiriti o Waitangi partners in Aotearoa New Zealand.



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# Contents

<u><b>2</b></u> President's Report	<u><b>8</b></u> COE Report	<u><b>24</b></u> ACEM Honours and Awards
<u><b>4</b></u> ACEM Board	<u><b>10</b></u> CAPP Report	<u><b>26</b></u> New Fellows
<u><b>5</b></u> ACEM Councils	<u><b>14</b></u> Celebrating Prize-winning ACEM Members	<u><b>30</b></u> ACEM Graduates
<u><b>6</b></u> ACEM in Numbers	<u><b>18</b></u> ACEM Faculty Boards	<u><b>34</b></u> Vale
	<u><b>22</b></u> ACEM Foundation	

# President's Report

Report of the ACEM Board

Dr Stephen Gourley, President



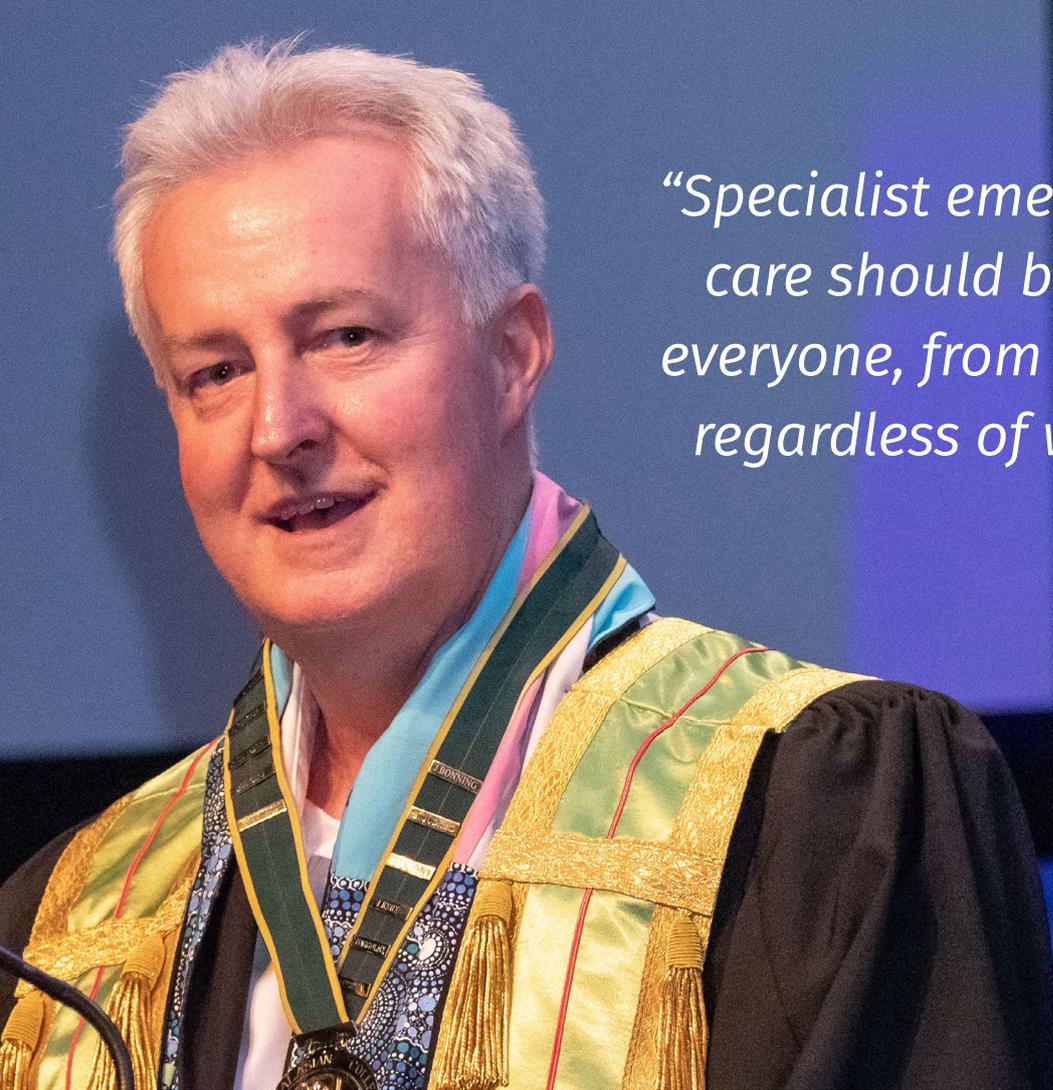
It has been my privilege as ACEM President to spend the past few months engaging with Fellows and trainees around Aotearoa New Zealand and Australia. I am proud to be the President of ACEM at a time when we are striving to improve regional, rural and remote (RRR) health. Specialist emergency medical care should be accessible for everyone, from cradle to grave, regardless of where they live.

Making connections and learning more about the people – Fellows, trainees and staff – and the communities in which they live and work is crucial to the work we do. Hospitals, and particularly our emergency departments (EDs), are facing intense pressures, including staffing shortages, lack of beds and resource constraints. All areas are facing austerity measures. This greatly affects the

dedicated and passionate ED staff. It's important to know that ACEM is working hard – locally, nationally and bi-nationally – on a range of projects aimed to relieve some of these pressures.

After successful advocacy on improving ED safety in Aotearoa New Zealand, we're also advocating for federally funded, appropriately trained and embedded security staff in all EDs in Australia. Every ED must have 24/7 security staff who are supported and empowered in the ED environment, striving to provide cultural safety, able to build healthy relationships with staff, patients, carers and whānau, and skilled in de-escalation techniques. This isn't a panacea, so we must keep advocating for long-term solutions to the system-wide issues that can exacerbate violence and aggression in the ED. We just need to keep everyone safe.

I've been busy getting in the ear of a range of decision-makers, ensuring the priorities of the emergency medicine community are at the forefront of their minds. Together with our Faculty Chairs, I have been meeting Health Ministers around Australia, as well as Federal Ministers and policy-makers in Canberra.



*“Specialist emergency medical care should be accessible for everyone, from cradle to grave, regardless of where they live.”*

By doing this, we are ensuring that the College remains a trusted leader and adviser in emergency medicine and that our members' voices are heard in discussions and decisions related to their work.

On international matters, I am pleased to be representing Australasia on the International Federation for Emergency Medicine (IFEM) Board of Directors until 2026. Unfortunately, personal issues prevented me from attending the International Conference on Emergency Medicine (ICEM) 2024 in June, held in Taipei, Taiwan, and I thank Past President Dr John Bonning for stepping in. He has continued to do a wonderful job in promoting ACEM on the international stage.

I have also been working with ACEM staff to progress our advocacy on priority issues. After hearing from you about which issues matter most, the Council of Advocacy, Practice and Partnerships (CAPP) has signed off on a new College-wide Advocacy Strategy.

This strategy aims to guide and streamline activities to make sure we use our resources carefully, where it matters the most. We will be talking more to you all about the ACEM Advocacy Strategy and what it can help us achieve.

I'd like to thank the staff I have worked closely with over these months who have gone above and beyond to support me in the role of President. With this continued support, we will go from strength to strength in achieving outstanding advocacy results for our College.

Please take care of yourselves and each other. Every person who works in an ED is generous and dedicates so much of their life to helping people. Remember we are all human and we can only do so much, so make sure you seek joy, restoration and connection where and when you can. I have enjoyed every moment of my presidency so far and I'm looking forward to the next year.

**Dr Stephen Gourley**  
President

# ACEM Board

as of 30 June 2024



**Dr Stephen Gourley**  
ACEM President



**Dr Clare Skinner**  
Immediate Past President



**Dr Belinda Hibble**  
Chair, Council of Advocacy,  
Practice and Partnerships



**Dr Kate Field**  
Censor-in-Chief and Chair,  
Council of Education



**Professor Didier Palmer OAM**  
FACEM General Member



**Dr Glenn Harrison**  
FACEM General Member



**Dr Thomas van Dantzig**  
Trainee Member



**Ms Joy Rogers**  
Community Member



**Mr Craig Hodges**  
Non-FACEM Board Member



**Ms Libby Pallot**  
Non-FACEM Board Member

# ACEM Councils

## Membership

### Council of Advocacy, Practice and Partnerships (CAPP)

**Dr Belinda Hibble**, Chair

**Dr Juan Carlos Ascencio-Lane**, Deputy Chair

**Dr Stephen Gourley**, President (from November 2023), President-Elect (until November 2023)

**Dr Clare Skinner**, Immediate Past President (from November 2023), President (until November 2023)

**Dr Kate Allan**, Aotearoa New Zealand

**Dr Michael Connelly**, Aotearoa New Zealand

**Dr Aline Archambeau**, Australian Capital Territory

**Dr Rhys Ross-Browne**, New South Wales

**Dr Trevor Chan**, New South Wales

**Dr Andrew Coggins**, New South Wales

**Dr Jules Willcocks**, Northern Territory

**Dr Ajith Thampi**, Queensland

**Dr Shantha Raghwan**, Queensland

**Dr Justin Thompson**, Queensland

**Dr Daniel Haustead**, South Australia

**Dr Paul Spillane**, Tasmania

**Dr Andrew Blunt**, Victoria

**Dr Philippa Flinn**, Victoria

**Associate Professor Mark Putland**, Victoria

**Dr Eve Foreman**, Western Australia

**Dr Peter Allely**, Western Australia

**Ms Louise Johnson**, Community Member

### Council of Education (COE)

**Dr Kate Field**, Censor-in-Chief and Chair

**Dr Anoushka Perera**, Deputy Censor-in-Chief and Deputy Chair

**Dr Stephen Gourley**, President (from November 2023), President-Elect (until November 2023)

**Dr Clare Skinner**, Immediate Past President (from November 2023), President (until November 2023)

**Dr Selina Watchorn**, Regional Censor for Australian Capital Territory

**Dr Miguel Taliana**, Regional Censor for New South Wales

**Dr Darren Khodaverdi**, Regional Censor for Aotearoa New Zealand

**Dr Rebecca Day**, Regional Censor for Northern Territory

**Dr Darren Powrie**, Regional Censor for Queensland

**Dr Peter Bruce**, Regional Censor for South Australia

**Dr Laura Pulbrook**, Regional Censor for Tasmania

**Dr Phyllis Fu**, Regional Censor for Victoria

**Dr Simone Bartlett**, Regional Censor for Western Australia

**Dr Nicola Sandler**, Trainee Committee Chair (from November 2023)

**Dr Laksmi Govindasamy**, Trainee Committee Chair (until November 2023)

**Ms Jennifer Morris**, Community Member

# ACEM in Numbers

## Membership Categories (as of 30 June 2024)

### Fellows

# 3955

Active Fellows

# 316

New Fellows between  
1 July 2023 – 30 June 2024

### Active Fellows by Region



### Training Programs as of 30 June 2024

# 350

trainees registered in  
the **ACEM Emergency  
Medicine Certificate  
(EMC) Training Program**

# 175

trainees registered  
in the **Associateship  
in Intermediate  
Emergency Medicine  
Training Program**

# 74

trainees registered  
in the **Associateship  
in Advanced  
Emergency Medicine  
Training Program**

# 167

trainees registered  
in the **Associateship  
in Pre-Hospital and  
Retrieval Medicine  
Training Program**

# 2446

**FACEM Training Program**  
trainees

# 4

FACEM Training Program trainees  
in the **legacy training program**

# 2442

FACEM Training Program trainees  
in the **revised training program**

**Note:** In line with the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA) legislation, from 1 March 2024, the Diploma of Pre-Hospital and Retrieval Medicine, Emergency Medicine Diploma and Emergency Medicine Advanced Diploma titles were changed to the Pre-Hospital and Retrieval Medicine Training Program, Intermediate Emergency Medicine Training Program, and Advanced Emergency Medicine Training Program, respectively.

## ACEM accredited emergency department training sites (FACEM Training Program)



# 159

At the end of June 2024, there were a total of 159 emergency departments (EDs) accredited by ACEM for the delivery of FACEM training in Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand (either adult-only EDs or mixed EDs), as well as 18 sites accredited as paediatric-only EDs (PEDs).

## Membership Categories (as at 30 June 2024)



## Advocacy

### Submissions

# 37

**submissions** to policy inquiries between 1 July 2023 and 30 June 2024

Of these:

- **Eight submissions** were made in Aotearoa New Zealand.
- **14 submissions** were made at a federal or national level in Australia.
- **11 submissions** were made at state or territory level in Australia.
- **19 submissions** were focused on health system reform, including workforce.
- **11 submissions** addressed quality, patient safety and clinical care.
- **Seven submissions** focused on public health.

### Meetings

More than **30 meetings** with politicians and/ or their senior advisors, alongside a large number of engagements with senior public servants.

### Representation

**67 members** of ACEM represented the College on external or representative bodies.



# COE Report

**Dr Kate Field, Chair and Censor-in-Chief**

Once again, 2023 to 2024 has been an eventful year for the Council of Education (COE). In August 2023, the Australian Medical Council (AMC) notified us that all of the reaccreditation conditions had been met. Our next big reaccreditation will now be in 2030.

In November 2023, we began the transition of trainees from the pre-2022 FACEM Training Program to the 2022 FACEM Training Program. Thanks to the incredibly hard work of Mr Damien Reddrop and Ms Shilpa Walia, the Training Services Team was able to ensure that this was a smooth process where no trainee was disadvantaged. On behalf of the Council, I would particularly like to acknowledge and thank the Training Services Team for the enormous volume of work and attention to detail that was required to ensure that the process went smoothly.

January 2024 saw the launch of ACEM as an accredited CPD Home and the move to our new continuing professional development (CPD) platform. The work on the platform continued after launch, and the increased functionality and ability to track CPD requirements has been welcomed by users. The ease with which users have transitioned to the platform would not have been possible without the excellent relationships and communication between the whole cross-College project team. I'd like to thank Mrs Anna Kaider, Ms Renee McNamara and Mr Brad Carter for their care and attention to detail.

The CPD Homes project concluded in August and work is now focused on improvements to the myACEM training portal. Feedback received from trainees thus far has indicated that the portal is working well for them. The main improvements moving forward are to improve functionality for Directors of Emergency Medicine Training (DEMTs), Workplace-Based Assessments (WBA) Coordinators and Trainee Progression Review Panel members.

Following ACEM's success in receiving Federal Government funding to investigate Blended Supervision in non-accredited rural and remote settings, sites across WA and NSW were confirmed as initial pilot sites. Three trainees commenced six months of core ED training in Busselton, Broome and Macksville in August 2024. In 2025, three further trainees will take up the opportunity to complete core ED training in Wangaratta, Tennant Creek and Warwick. In early 2024, ACEM was awarded further Flexible Approach to Training in Expanded Settings (FATES) funding to develop Accredited Training Networks. The purpose of these funded projects is to investigate and develop options for FACEM trainees to complete ED training in rural and remote settings. We are looking forward to the evaluation of these pilot projects in 2025.

In mid-2023, the AMC closed the National Test Centre in Melbourne, where all Primary Viva examinations and Fellowship OSCE examinations had been held for many years. As a result, the only feasible option for ACEM to be able to continue to offer clinical exams was to relocate to Cliftons in Sydney. This has worked well, with feedback from trainees noting that the centre in Sydney is less imposing. At this stage, clinical examinations will continue to be held in Sydney, unless alternative, improved options become available in the future.

Perhaps what we are most proud of is our ongoing work to offer greater flexibility and compassion for trainees, reflected in ACEM policies, particularly in relation to special consideration. COE is also addressing inequities that have become apparent with parental leave interruptions to training. We are continuing to develop policies and processes that are aimed at supporting trainees to continue training and progress to Fellowship, while ensuring that the standard expected of a FACEM is maintained.

The work of the Assessment Improvement Reference Group will be completed by mid-2025, with recommendations to be made to COE and the ACEM Board. Thanks to Dr Elena Verezub for her expertise in guiding the group in their discussions. I would also particularly like to thank the members of this working group for the integrity and bravery they have displayed in discussions.

I'd like to acknowledge and thank the College staff who have continued to support the work of the Council of Education this year, particularly Mrs Anna Kaider in her role as Executive Director of Education and Training. Thank you to Mr Damien Reddrop, former Executive Director of Training, who has been instrumental in the development of the FACEM Training Program over the seven years of his tenure at ACEM. I'd also like to acknowledge the Manager of Education Strategy and Development, Ms Penny Holmes, Manager of Training Services, Mr Jared Price, Manager of Associateship Training Programs, Ms Jackie Mottica, Manager of Examination Operations, Mr George Hibdige, Manager of Assessment Systems and Standards, Mr Bernie Liedtke, Manager of Accreditation, Ms Jenny Winger, and Manager of Education Compliance, Ms Renee McNamara, for their ongoing hard work. A huge thanks must also go to Ms Caroline Burrowes for her ongoing support of COE and its entities.

Mr Olly Jones has been an exceptional Interim CEO who has always maintained oversight of Education and Training in ACEM while juggling additional responsibilities that have come with the new role. I'd like to thank him for his continued support and advice.

Finally, thank you to Deputy Censor-in-Chief Dr Anoushka Perera for her continued support, counsel and insights; Dr Clare Skinner, for her support and the different viewpoints that she has brought to the Council over her tenure as President-Elect, President and Immediate Past President; and ACEM President Dr Stephen Gourley for his ongoing support of the work we are doing at the Council. Of course, I owe a huge debt of thanks to the Regional Censors and Deputy Censors, without whose discussion and support we would not have achieved much.

I would also like to thank the Chairs of the COE entities for their ongoing support and often unsung work: Dr Stephanie Schlueter (Emergency Medicine Associateship Training Programs Committee), Associate Professor Victor Lee (Trainee Progression Review Subcommittee), Dr Julia Peters (Selection Subcommittee), Dr Megan Foster (Accreditation Committee), Dr Joanne Dalglish (Examinations Committee), Dr Anoushka Perera (Specialist Training and Assessment Committee), Dr Shamus Shepherd (CPD Committee), Dr Nadi Pandithage (ED Ultrasound Committee), Dr Anne Smith (Specialist International Medical Graduate Assessment Committee) and Dr Nicola Sandler (Trainee Committee).

To all the DEMTs, WBA coordinators, FACEMs and trainees who continue to nominate for and complete work in the various education and training committees, working groups and panels, thank you. Without you, there would be no assessments of trainees, no progression and no new Fellows! The work that you do really matters and is appreciated.

I look forward to continuing to work with all the ACEM staff, trainees and Fellows involved in education and training over the next two years of this term of service.



# CAPP Report

**Dr Belinda Hibble, Chair**

Dr Belinda Hibble was elected as Council of Advocacy, Practice and Partnerships (CAPP) Chair for the November 2023 to November 2025 term, with Dr Juan Carlos Ascencio-Lane appointed as Deputy Chair. This year has seen CAPP continuing to prioritise its advocacy, standard-setting, partnership-building and research energies on areas of significant impact for members and patients.

## Setting ACEM Advocacy Priorities

CAPP has approved the first ACEM Advocacy Strategy – a tool to guide staff and College representatives in delivering the greatest value to members through judicious and targeted allocation of resources. The strategy identifies areas in which the College will play a leading (or ‘core’ role).

## ACEM Advocacy Priorities

These are the fundamental and overarching issues for ACEM advocacy. All College advocacy efforts and activities should consider how the objectives associated with these issues can be advanced.

<b>Indigenous Health Equity</b>	For all Indigenous peoples to have access to high-quality, comprehensive and culturally safe emergency care.
<b>Patient Access and Flow</b>	Patient safety is improved by reducing access block and ED overcrowding.
<b>Quality, Evidence-based, Patient-centred Emergency Care</b>	To ensure the highest standards of medical care for all patients presenting to EDs.
<b>Respect and Cultural Awareness</b>	That the emergency medicine community is one where people feel valued and respected, have a sense of belonging and can contribute their talents regardless of their professional or social identity.
<b>Workforce and Rural Health Equity</b>	To ensure sustainable, safe, effective medical staffing in all EDs in Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand.

## Influencing the Political Agenda

In October 2023, Aotearoa New Zealand held its general election, and the New Zealand Faculty Board advocated for 24/7 security staff posted at every ED, integrated and appropriately trained to best support staff, patients, whānau and visitors.

In May 2024, ACEM welcomed a NZ\$30.8 million investment for improving ED safety in the 2024 Aotearoa New Zealand Budget. This boost to investment in ED security was a direct response to the College's campaign during the 2023 election. A significant update to ACEM's Policy on *Violence in emergency departments* is [here](#).

The next Australian federal election is expected around May 2025. In the Australian context, the College needs to be nuanced in its advocacy approach, in terms of identification of funding streams that are federally controlled and choosing narratives that tend to resonate at a national level.

In this regard, CAPP has agreed on three key election 'asks' as follows:

- 1 Rural Health Equity and Workforce.** This priority will focus on ACEM's federally funded Emergency Medicine Education and Training (EMET) Program and will propose a renewed financial commitment.
- 2 Emergency Medicine Research.** This priority will focus on securing federal backing to establish a National Emergency Medicine Foundation.
- 3 Safety in the ED.** ACEM is alarmed at escalating violence across all jurisdictions and will be asking for stronger national leadership. The duty of care of employers, and the contribution of overcrowding and access block to violence, will be implicit in our campaign messaging.

## Supporting Rural Health Equity

A key component of our strategy is the federally backed ACEM Accredited Training Networks Project, which will pilot two regional/rural accredited training networks in Victoria and NSW in 2025. This will increase rural-based training time and extend the settings in which training is performed. It is planned to have trainees in place in the networks before February 2025.

Network reach into rural and remote areas will be supported by integration with another federally funded project – the ACEM Blended Supervision Pilot (BSP) Project. Three sites have recruited trainees for the August 2024 to February 2025 placement period. These projects are key components of ACEM's Workforce Planning Strategy aimed at addressing the workforce issues facing the EM specialty.

## Improving Patient Access and Flow

The ACEM-developed [Hospital Access Targets](#) are part of a suite of access-based advocacy measures being undertaken by the College. We believe that time-based targets can be effective if based on whole-of-system metrics, and that the current national targets (based solely on 'ED performance') are not fit for purpose. Evidence shows that access-blocked patients have poorer outcomes, with those findings underpinning the time points within the ACEM targets.

ACEM has been pursuing a long-term advocacy campaign, culminating in 2025 with the intended incorporation of our targets into the National Health Agreement in Australia. To date, Aotearoa New Zealand and several jurisdictions across Australia have committed to or are reporting on our targets. The targets have also been incorporated into national reporting by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. An important step this year has been a new memorandum of understanding between ACEM and the Health Roundtable (HRT) which includes a firm commitment by the HRT to reporting against the targets. As participating hospitals receive regular HRT reports, this will further socialise the targets with hospital executives bi-nationally.

The HRT is a collective of approximately 230 hospitals across Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand that provide a range of data (including presentation level) to the HRT.

### Advancing Culturally Aware Practice

ACEM supports equity in emergency care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Māori communities through a commitment to the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi in Aotearoa New Zealand, the process of Reconciliation in Australia, and the intent of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. We were proud to have launched two important ACEM statements this year:

- [S52 Statement on Health Equity for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples](#) champions a multifaceted approach to cultural safety and improved equity of access and outcomes for Aboriginal peoples presenting to the ED.
- [S913 Statement on Health Equity for Māori](#) is a new ACEM standard and a clear public statement of the College's commitment to addressing health disparities for Māori residing in both Aotearoa New Zealand and Australia.

### Supporting Our Advocacy with Research

The ACEM Research Unit has developed a new tool for site census data reporting, enabling interactive dashboard data presentation and direct download of data from the ACEM website. This will streamline reporting processes, enable easier benchmarking of ED staffing and activity/casemix, and resources by region/hospital peer group.

A 12-month funded ACEM/NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) Partnership Project has established new evidence on the impact of major climate events on ED functions, particularly on increased presentations during climatic events.

The project also benchmarks data on the status of environmental sustainability practices in all ACEM-accredited EDs.

- [Environmental Sustainability Practices in EDs](#)
- [Impact of Climate Events on EDs](#)

### Developing EM Standards

The following (selected) ACEM policies, guidelines and statements have been updated in the past year:

- [P55 Emergency Medicine Consultation Standards of Care](#)
- [P59 Heatwave Preparedness for EDs and Emergency Medicine Systems](#)
- [P06 Policy on the Australasian Triage Scale/G24 Guidelines on the Implementation of the Australasian Triage Scale in Emergency Departments](#)
- [S904 Joint CENA/ACEM Position Statement on Vital Signs Monitoring in EDs](#)
- [S12 Statement on Delineation of EDs and Other Hospital-based Emergency Care Services](#)
- [G125 Joint RCPA/ACEM Guidelines on Pathology Testing in the ED](#)
- [G554 Guidelines on ED Short Stay Units](#)
- [P18 Policy on Responsibility for Care in EDs](#)
- [P03 Joint Guideline for Transport of Critically Ill Patients \(ACEM/ANZCA/CICM\)](#)
- [P36 Policy on Clinical Handover in the Emergency Department](#)

The Policy and Advocacy Unit has also completed 37 submissions to Australian state and territories and national consultations in the past 12 months. All professional standards and ACEM submissions can be accessed through ACEM's [Standards and Advocacy Library](#).



## ACEM President joins medical leaders to discuss health system reform

In March 2024, ACEM President Dr Stephen Gourley joined health sector colleagues from 50 medical colleges, peak bodies and associations in Canberra to discuss the Australian healthcare system's critical need for reform.

Participants included Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) President Dr Nicole Higgins, Australasian College for Emergency Medicine (ACEM) President Dr Stephen Gourley, Australian Medical Association (AMA) President Dr Steve Robson, and the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS) President Associate Professor Kerin Fielding (left to right in featured photo). All are based in rural Australia – marking a significant first within Australian healthcare leadership.

'Our overcrowded emergency departments are a symptom of the failing health system that we've got at the moment,' Dr Gourley said.

'What we're doing right now isn't working. We need fundamental change to the system, and that's what we're here to talk about.'

Dr Gourley said the roundtable meeting was a unique opportunity for health sector leadership to collaborate on strategies that could reduce the pressures on the health system and healthcare workers, with discussions aimed at influencing future policy.

The urgent need to address ongoing workforce shortages that are having a serious impact on Australian healthcare was acknowledged by Federal Health and Aged Care Minister Mark Butler, who spoke at the event.

Dr Gourley called for greater Commonwealth investment to help ensure regional, rural and remote towns across the nation have greater access to healthcare – with workforce shortages adding extra stress for staff working in the already high-pressure environments.

Health systems must be reimaged and redesigned, he said. 'The answers are not building bigger emergency departments. It's about designing systems where people can access health care without being funnelled through the emergency department.'

# Celebrating Prize-winning ACEM Members

ACEM is proud to congratulate all the winners of the Buchanan Prize and Joseph Epstein Prize throughout the 2023 to 2024 financial year.

## The 2023.2 and 2024.1 Buchanan Prize winners

The Buchanan Prize is awarded to the highest-scoring candidates in a cohort of the Fellowship Examination (Clinical), also known as the 'OSCE', on their first attempt of the examination. The exam is held twice each year.

A total of 207 trainees sat the 2023.2 examination across three cohorts at the Australian Medical Council's National Test Centre in Melbourne.

### Dr David Emmerig

The first person Dr Emmerig shared the news of his Buchanan Prize win with was his wife Hannah. 'We've got two very small children, so the main thing for us was that I passed the exam,' he said.

His approach to studying effectively with young children in his life was to be flexible with when and how he studied.

'You just have to take your opportunity to study when you can, while accepting that you do have a family, and have all those other responsibilities.'

Dr Emmerig said he hopes to use his experience with the OSCE to help the next generation of emergency trainees.

'I'm going to stay at Westmead Hospital. Then, hopefully, I can use the lessons that I've had preparing for this exam to give back and contribute to the trainees coming through there.'

### Dr Nicole Maitin-Casalis

Dr Maitin-Casalis said she was shocked when she found out the news. 'When I first saw the email from ACEM I thought: "Oh no, I hope they haven't taken back my pass!"'

She said finding someone similar to you to study with is helpful when preparing for the OSCE. 'You can keep each other up during the downs, and push each other along to keep the momentum up.'

### Dr Hector Thomson

Dr Thomson said he prepared for the exam by studying with two close friends. 'We met every day, for at least an hour, and went through stations,' he said. 'Then we had lots of consultants at my hospital who were willing to do stations with us, which was really good.'

One key thing he said he learned was not to be too formulaic in his answers. 'We started off trying to find the perfect answer to every question and then we soon realised that listening really closely to what the people in the station were saying was more important,' he said. 'Actively listening during the stations, which can be really hard under pressure, was the best tip we got.'

A total of 218 candidates sat the 2024.1 OSCE exam, which was held at Cliftons in Sydney.

### Dr Laura Castle

'I was actually on shift dressing a very unglamorous chronic wound when I got the notification about the prize,' Dr Castle said. She is currently working in Epworth Richmond emergency department in Melbourne.



'After some thorough hand hygiene, I checked my phone, and it came as a lovely surprise! Getting through exams is a tough slog for everyone so it means a lot to be recognised like this. I think my mum has told half of Scotland, so it's been great hearing messages of congratulations from back home.'

The main piece of advice Dr Castle said she would give to others facing the OSCE is 'find a study group who you get on with, trust, and, most importantly, who are more interested in getting everyone through rather than competing with each other'.

'I was also lucky to work with an excellent mentor and educator, who helped me so much,' she said.

Dr Castle also recommended approaching each question as you would in the workplace. 'No one is asking you to reinvent the wheel, it's more about demonstrating a safe, prioritised approach to team-leading any scenario you face. Always think about what needs to happen and in what order to get the best patient outcome.'

### **Dr Gareth Ryan**

Dr Ryan explained his passion for emergency medicine by acknowledging the 'camaraderie of this specialty' that has 'always amazed me'. 'It took a while for the disbelief to fade when I read the email from ACEM. I must have refreshed and re-read it a dozen times,' he said about learning the news of his Buchanan Prize recognition.



'Passing the exam a few weeks earlier was reward enough, but receiving this is an honour. After telling my partner and family, the next thing I had to do was share the news with the mentors, friends and colleagues who had given me so much of their time over the past year. Their support has been invaluable, and I'm looking forward to trying to pay that forward.'

Dr Ryan is currently working in Bunbury Regional Hospital in WA's south-west, and said that, post-training, he hopes to 'continue working across emergency medicine, education, and retrieval'.

To help others preparing to face the OSCE exam, he said, 'practise papers/stations again and again – with different people, in different environments, back to back, when you feel great, and when you're exhausted!'

'The more uncomfortable you make yourself during your preparation, the less uncomfortable you'll be on the day,'

'Prepare for the reality that you will make a mess of at least one station, just don't let it affect the rest,' Dr Ryan said.

'A few weeks out from the exam, while driving home after yet another long day of practise, I felt distinctly exhausted. I remember being struck by how impressive it was that every FACEM I know has been through this process.'

'Sometimes these exams can feel like they are more a test of your mental fortitude than of your knowledge. The whole process is unavoidably stressful, and your morale will fluctuate. Appreciate your small wins, and don't forget to do the things that keep your spirits high.'

### **Dr Roxanne Dubash**

For Dr Dubash, 'there's so much to love about emergency medicine' – and finding out she had passed the OSCE was met with welcome relief. 'I was literally walking into work when I checked my phone, so it was very special to be able to share the news with my work team and so many people who helped get me through the exam,' Dr Dubash said. 'I had to recheck the email multiple times because it didn't feel real!'



She sees her role in emergency medicine as 'a huge privilege' and said 'it makes for really meaningful work'.

'Another thing I love is the teamwork – it's incredibly gratifying working in a highly effective team to deliver a good outcome for a person who is unwell, using not just our knowledge but skills in communication, prioritisation and procedures,' Dr Dubash said. 'It can be really challenging work, but the best days are truly the best – inspiring, perspective-shifting and fulfilling.'

## Celebrating Prize-winning ACEM Members cont'd

### The 2023.2 and 2024.1 Joseph Epstein Prize winners

The Joseph Epstein Prize is awarded to the highest-scoring candidates in a cohort at the Primary Viva Examination on their first attempt of the examination. The exam is held twice each year.

The 2023.2 examination was sat by 194 candidates at Cliftons Margaret Street Examination Centre in Sydney.

#### Dr Michael Morton

Dr Morton had just arrived at a hotel in Thailand with his wife, on the first day of their honeymoon, when he received the news of his award. 'My wife, Adelle, was naturally the first person I told. Based on how I'd reacted, I'm fairly sure she thought something of a disaster or emergency had happened.'

He said he relied on past exams to structure his study for both the written and verbal sections, but noted that studying for the written section was very self-directed and sometimes isolating, whereas the Viva preparation worked much better in a group setting.

He said that emergency became his passion because of the variety of the work, the acuity and opportunity to do procedures, and the friendliness and approachability of the people who work with him.

'I also hate ironing clothes,' he said. 'A specialty where you can get away with wearing pyjamas makes for an ideal work environment.'

Dr Morton listed his main supports as DEMENTs and other consultants from Coffs Harbour Hospital, fellow trainees, his wife Adelle, and people outside of work to help pull him away from exam stresses. His puppy, Tsuki, was also a fantastic study supporter. 'My tip would be to have a group chat with other trainees where you can vent your frustrations – because you will have them,' he said. 'Sometimes it's just nice to get clarity, support, or just have a whinge.'

#### Dr Harry Sofatzis

Dr Sofatzis was at work when he found out he was one of two winners in the 2023.2 Joseph Epstein Prize. 'I told one of my colleagues who I was working with that day, because I was a bit excited and wanted to share it with somebody. Then I said "Oh, don't tell anyone else", but, before I knew it, the whole department had found out.'

When it comes to study tips, he stressed the importance of picking a strategy that works for you.

'I remember I spoke to a few people about how they were going to study, and I just knew that wasn't going to work for me,' Dr Sofatzis said. 'Reflect on what's worked well for you in the past and try to stick to that.' Making sure there was a lot of variety in the way he studied also helped him remain engaged with the content. 'That meant trying to mix up the environment, mix up the methods, and trying to keep it interesting for myself.'

Dr Sofatzis said he fell in love with emergency medicine from when he did his first placement in medical school. 'I really enjoyed the diversity of the work, and that no matter who walked through the door, you tried your best to help them.'

He said he found the Liverpool Hospital ED doctors and trainees incredibly supportive during the time leading up to his exam. 'We had a great group of people who were studying for the exams at the same time at Liverpool, and we studied together and motivated each other and kept each other on track, so that was great.'

The 2024.1 examination was held in Sydney, with 152 overall candidates taking part.

### **Dr Niall Brown**

'I am very grateful for the award, which came as a genuine surprise! I think it reflects the countless hours sacrificed by senior colleagues in helping our study group to prepare, as it would have been almost impossible without their selfless efforts,' Dr Niall Brown said.



His own career pathway was motivated by memories of being with his GP mother in their small village in the United Kingdom and 'bumping into her patients'.

'I would see the gratitude in these interactions and was regularly told of the kindness in the way she practised,' Dr Brown said. He moved to the NSW Central Coast three years ago and currently works across Gosford and Wyong EDs.

His advice to others is, 'Don't be discouraged by comparing yourself to others. I was told at university that medicine is like doing a puzzle – everyone fits different pieces of information together at different times. It will all come together in the end no matter the order.'

### **Dr Karen Mc Mahon**

Dr Mc Mahon works at Royal Perth Hospital ED and said, 'the (Joseph Epstein) Prize was quite a surprise, to be honest'.



'I knew I had worked hard and was already just delighted to have passed, so getting the email was amazing.'

She said her love of studying biology – and 'particularly human anatomy' – as a high school student led her to believe medicine was 'the only career I could see myself enjoying after school'.

Dr Mc Mahon's honest appraisal of the Primary Viva Examination was that 'it's a hard exam'. 'I found trying to keep up with my department's weekly curriculum and teaching sessions worked well for me,' she said. 'There were always busy weeks where I hadn't had a chance to even open a book, but even just sitting in on a session and listening was still useful.'

### **Dr Saxon Hunt**

Dr Hunt currently works at Wyong Hospital (CCLHD) and said, 'in five years I'd like to either have sat or be thinking about sitting the (ACEM) Fellowship exams'.



Her advice for all real-world doctors facing their own exams is to find the support of an 'excellent study group'.

'I sat the exam with my friends, and it meant that we could all revise together, but also understood the stress each other was going through,' Dr Hunt said.

# ACEM Faculty Boards



## Aotearoa New Zealand

**Dr Kate Allan**  
Faculty Chair



## South Australia

**Dr Michael Edmonds**  
Faculty Chair



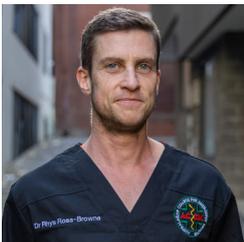
## Australian Capital Territory

**Dr Aline Archambeau**  
Faculty Chair



## Tasmania

**Dr Juan Carlos Ascencio-Lane**  
Faculty Chair



## New South Wales

**Dr Rhys Ross-Browne**  
Faculty Chair



## Victoria

**Associate Professor  
Mark Putland**  
Faculty Chair



## Northern Territory

**Professor Didier Palmer  
OAM**  
Faculty Chair



## Western Australia

**Dr Vanessa Clayden**  
Faculty Chair



## Queensland

**Dr Shantha Raghwan**  
Faculty Chair



ACEM President and ACEM Faculty members.

Aotearoa New Zealand and Australian Faculties had a busy 2023 to 2024, hosting 48 meetings online and in person. The return of regular in-person meetings was a highlight, with more opportunities for members to meet face to face since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Faculty meetings allowed for much-needed sharing of information, with some of the most well-attended meetings offering themes and guest speakers.

The Queensland Faculty's November meeting was hosted in conjunction with the Queensland Emergency Department Strategic Advisory Panel (QEDSAP) and featured a Q&A with the Minister for Health and a lively discussion on ED admission rights.

The Victorian Faculty's April meeting focused on the impact of reforms related to the use of restrictive interventions, with the Acting Chief Psychiatrist joined by representatives from Safer Care Victoria and the Mental Health and Wellbeing Commission in answering questions from members.

Over in Tasmania, at their May meeting, the Acting Secretary of the Department of Health joined a panel discussion on the need for government action to reduce incidences of violence in EDs.

The College Presidents and Faculty Chairs prioritised getting out to as many in-person Faculty meetings as possible, with Alice Springs, Canberra, Coffs Harbour, Redcliffe, Royal Hobart, Royal Melbourne, Royal Perth and Westmead EDs all hosting Faculty meetings on-site. Often, these meetings were held on the same day as other Faculty advocacy activities, such as meetings with Health Ministers, and allowed for members to highlight issues that could be acted upon immediately.

Advocacy-wise, access block dominated the political agenda in both countries, with workforce pressures also prominent everywhere. The major Faculties campaign for the year was the Aotearoa New Zealand national election, which took place in November. The Faculty Board developed a set of advocacy priorities and brought them to the attention of the major parties and the public through a targeted media and stakeholder engagement campaign.

The Faculty Board advocated for:

- 1) **Mental Health Care.** Appropriate staffing of all mental health facilities, making more acute mental health care beds available for Aotearoa New Zealanders who need one.
- 2) **Care for Older People.** A commitment to urgently adding 150 high-level aged care beds across Aotearoa so more older people get the care they need, and more hospital beds are made available for other patients who need them.



ACEM President, CAPP and COE members and the ACEM Executive Leadership.

- 3) **Workforce.** Implementation of identified solutions to provide and retain the emergency care workforce needed to deliver safe care and protect the wellbeing of staff.
- 4) **Data.** Implementation of a plan to collect accurate ethnicity data, audit health care outcomes for equity and address identified inequities in the ED.
- 5) **ED Security.** 24/7 safety staff posted at every ED, integrated and appropriately trained to best support staff, patients, whānau and visitors.

The incoming government agreed to trial a boost in security staff for a select number of EDs over the summer period. In May 2024, a NZ\$30.8 million investment for improving ED safety was announced in the 2024 Aotearoa New Zealand Budget, a direct response to the College's 2023 election campaign.

After a snap election was called in Tasmania, the Faculty Board and wider Faculty engaged in identifying its priorities for the campaign. Despite a short lead-in time, the Faculty Board promoted an 'ask' aimed at workforce investment and recruitment, with Tasmanian Labor pledging AUD\$2 million to subsidise Tasmanian doctors completing the College's Associateship Training Programs – and, crucially, staying in the state.

Faculty Boards spilled in November at the Annual Scientific Meeting, with 31 members ending their terms at this time. We thank these members for their service:

**Aotearoa New Zealand**

André Cromhout, Elspeth Frascatore, Harriet Harper, Donagh MacMahon, Cameron Rosie, Kim Yates

**Australian Capital Territory**

David Banfield, Stuart Vernon, Amy Ting

**New South Wales**

Dane Chalkley, Victoria Connolly, Farnaz Omid, James Tadros

**Northern Territory**

Shireen Gujral, Michelle Withers

**Queensland**

Ben Butcher, Tanvi Karnik, Alex Markwell

**South Australia**

Megan Brooks, Tony Eliseo, Kimberly Humphrey, Andrew Perry

**Tasmania**

Fiona Cowan, Ashley Loughman

**Victoria**

Andy Tagg, Laksmi Govindasamy, Robert Mitchell, Dean Pritchard, Melinda Truesdale

**Western Australia**

Ian Dey, Michael Hale



*ACEM President and Natasha Fyles (former Chief Minister of the NT), Alice Springs Emergency Department.*

Post-November, we welcomed 31 new members of the Faculty Boards:

**Aotearoa New Zealand**

Mark Gilbert, Greg Stevens, Julie Taylor

**Australian Capital Territory**

Anneliese Leerdam, Sam Scanlan, Mechelle Smith

**New South Wales**

Rachael Gill, Lucy McKenzie, Shamus Shepherd, Amanda Zhou

**Northern Territory**

Adam Conroy, Bhushan Joshi, Isabelle O’Conor, Nadi Pandithage

**Queensland**

Rachel Kooymans, Rudi Prasad, Justin Thompson

**South Australia**

Richard Goldsmith, Jorinde Helmich, Alison Robinson

**Tasmania**

Nicole Baxter, Farida Khawaja, Paul Spillane, Viet Tran

**Victoria**

Andrew Blunt, Pippa Flinn, Glenn Harrison, Megan Kho, Nicola Sandler

**Western Australia**

Asheila Narang, Brittney Wicksteed

Faculty leadership and the College recognise that training, support and opportunities for interjurisdictional collaboration are crucial to ensure these new Chairs and Deputy Chairs feel well-equipped and empowered in their roles.

A two-day Faculty Chairs Workshop was held in Melbourne in May, with sessions focusing on media relations, understanding of government and influencing techniques, with plenty of time for discussion and collaboration.



# ACEM Foundation

**Dr John Bonning, Committee Chair**

ACEM is committed to fostering emergency medicine research, encouraging and supporting Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and Māori doctors in undertaking emergency medicine training and building the capacity of emergency medicine programs in low and middle-income countries.

The ACEM Foundation contributes philanthropically towards three pillars:

- provide opportunities to undertake emergency medicine research endeavours;
- provide opportunities to improve and develop emergency care in low and middle-income countries; and
- encourage and support Australian and Aotearoa New Zealand Indigenous doctors to become emergency medicine physicians.

The following ACEM Foundation honours were awarded in 2023-2024.

## Emergency Medicine Research

### Al Spilman Early Career Researcher Grant

The Al Spilman Early Career Researcher Grant provides funds to Fellows and trainees who have limited research experience to assist them in developing and enhancing their research skills and experience.

2023 **Dr Devin Faragasso**

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## Support for Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander, and Māori Medical Practitioners

### ACEM Foundation Conference Scholarship

The ACEM Foundation Conference Scholarship is to support Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander, and Māori medical practitioners, medical students and other health professionals to attend the Australasian College for Emergency Medicine Winter Symposium or the ACEM Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM).

The scholarship aims to provide the recipient with an opportunity for professional development and facilitates leadership development for Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander, and Māori health practitioners.

2023 **Julie Allen**

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### Al Spilman Award for Cultural Safety Initiatives in an Emergency Department

The Al Spilman Award for Cultural Safety Initiatives in an Emergency Department was established in 2018 following a generous donation by Mr Al Spilman. The award highlights the importance of cultural safety to improve health outcomes for Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander, and Māori communities. The award recognises a significant step taken towards cultural safety by an emergency department. ACEM acknowledges that cultural safety is a journey of many steps.

2023 **Queensland Children's Hospital**

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2023 **Rockingham Emergency Department**

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### Joseph Epstein Scholarship

The Joseph Epstein Scholarship for Indigenous Advanced Emergency Medicine Trainees was established in 2013 by Foundation Fellow Associate Professor Joseph Epstein. The scholarship aims to increase the number of Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander, and Māori specialists in emergency medicine in Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand.

2023 **Dr Guy Dennis**

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2023 **Dr Nathan Passi**

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### Emergency Medicine Certificate Grant

Established in 2019, the ACEM Foundation Emergency Medicine Certificate Grant aims to increase the number of Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander, and Māori medical practitioners undertaking the ACEM Emergency Medicine Certificate (now the Associateship in Foundational Emergency Medicine).

2023 **Dr Angella Campbell**

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2024 **Dr Hamish Albany**

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2024 **Dr Montana Chugg**

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2024 **Dr Oceania Henry**

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### Global Emergency Care

#### Chris Curry University of Papua New Guinea Master of Medicine (EM)

The Chris Curry University of Papua New Guinea (UPNG) Master of Medicine in Emergency Medicine (MMed(EM)) Award is awarded to the highest-scoring MMed(EM) candidate each year.

2023 **Dr Jacklyn John**

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#### Mika Ah Kuoi – Fiji Masters of Emergency Medicine

The Mika Ah Kuoi – Fiji Masters of Emergency Medicine Award is awarded to the highest-scoring Masters of Emergency Medicine candidate from Fiji National University.

2023 **Dr Manisha Lata Tuima**

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### Global Emergency Care Scholarship

The Global Emergency Care Scholarship supports doctors or other emergency healthcare professionals from low and middle-income countries to attend the ACEM ASM, providing opportunities for professional development, networking, and professional recognition.

2023 **Dr Krishneel Krishna**

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2023 **Dr An Vo Thi Thuy**

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2023 **Dr Eldegar Lopes Martins**

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2023 **Dr Imelda Valia**

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2023 **Dr Donna Piamnok**

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2023 **Paulina Meltekun**

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### International Development Grant

The International Development Grant promotes the development of emergency care in developing countries.

2024 **Dr Jonathan Henry**

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2024 **Dr Brady Tassicker**

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### ACEM Foundation Sponsorship

The ACEM Foundation proudly sponsored Indigenous conferences and events in 2023-2024 and was a key sponsor for the Australian Indigenous Doctors' Association (AIDA) Annual Conference in November 2023.

# ACEM Honours and Awards

ACEM held two ceremonies at the 2023 ASM to honour award recipients. The ACEM Awards Ceremony took place on Saturday 18 November at Hotel Realm, Canberra, followed by the College Ceremony on Sunday 19 November, at the Royal Theatre in the National Convention Centre, Canberra.

Both events celebrated the achievements and contributions of ACEM honours recipients who had the opportunity to accept their awards in person, together with friends, family and colleagues.

## ACEM Medal

The ACEM Medal is awarded at the discretion of the Board of the College. It is considered the highest award that can be bestowed by ACEM in recognition of distinguished service to the College over a period of time by an ACEM Fellow.

2023 **Professor Didier Palmer**

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## ACEM Honorary Fellowship

The Honorary Fellowship is conferred to people of renown, distinguished members of the medical profession and other eminent persons who have made substantial and demonstrable contributions over a period of many years to the specialty of emergency medicine, as well as the associated activities and purpose of the College.

2023 **Jacqui Gibson-Roos**

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## ACEM Distinguished Service Award

The ACEM Distinguished Service Award recognises service over a period of time at a level considered significant to contributing to the College delivering its core functions at a high level.

2023 **Dr Rhys Ross-Browne**

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2023 **Dr Belinda Hibble**

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2023 **Dr Kate Anson**

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2023 **Dr Inia Tomash**

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2023 **Dr André Cromhout**

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2023 **Dr Stuart Barrington-Onslow**

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2023 **Dr Jan Bone**

---

2023 **Dr Jonathan Dowling**

---

2023 **Dr Alistair Fergusson**

---

2023 **Dr Elissa Kennedy-Smith**

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2023 **Dr Elizabeth Kyle**

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2023 **Dr Lindsay Murray**

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2023 **Dr Bradley Peckler**

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2023 **Dr Shamus Shepherd**

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2023 **Dr Stuart Watkins**

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*Dr Kate Field, Dr John Bonning, Dr Clare Skinner, Professor Didier Palmer and Dr Stephen Gourley.*

## ACEM Teaching Excellence Award

The ACEM Teaching Excellence Award recognises Fellows who have given distinguished and extensive service to the College in teaching and learning about emergency medicine.

2023 **Associate Professor Nicola Cunningham**

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2023 **Dr Ash Mukherjee**

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## Tom Hamilton Oration

The Tom Hamilton Oration is named after the inaugural President of the College, Tom Hamilton AM, who was the first Fellow to present the oration in 1990.

2023 **Professor Drew Richardson**

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## ACEM Diversity and Inclusion Award

The ACEM Diversity and Inclusion Award is part of the implementation of the College's Discrimination, Bullying and Sexual Harassment (DBSH) Action Plan. By embracing diversity, the emergency medicine profession will attract and retain a skilled and talented workforce dedicated to excellence, whilst also fostering inclusive communities – both inside and outside emergency departments.

2023 Group ED **Bankstown Lidcombe Hospital ED**

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2023 Group ED **Perth Children's Hospital Bringing Country To ED Working Group**

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2023 Individual **Clinical Associate Professor Joe-Anthony Rotella**

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## ACEM Wellbeing Award

The ACEM Wellbeing Award celebrates the initiative(s) of an individual member, group of members or an emergency department that have resulted in the enhancement of wellbeing for emergency department (ED) colleagues. The award recognises those who are proactively putting in place a considered strategy to encourage and promote the physical and mental health of ED staff.

2023 Individual **Dr Jennifer Macqueen**

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2023 Group ED **Flinders Medical Centre ED**

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2023 Group ED **St Vincent's Hospital Sydney ED**

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## Buchanan Prize

The Buchanan Prize is awarded to the highest-scoring candidates in a cohort of the Fellowship Examination (Clinical), the 'OSCE', on their first attempt of the examination.

2023.2 **Dr Nicole Maitin-Casalis**

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2023.2 **Dr David Emmerig**

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2023.2 **Dr Hector Thomson**

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2024.1 **Dr Roxanne Dubash**

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2024.1 **Dr Laura Castle**

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2024.1 **Dr Gareth Ryan**

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## Joseph Epstein Prize

The Joseph Epstein Prize is awarded to the highest-scoring candidate at the Primary Viva Examination.

2023.2 **Dr Harry Sofatzis**

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2023.2 **Dr Michael Morton**

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2024.1 **Dr Saxon Hunt**

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2024.1 **Dr Karen Mc Mahon**

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2024.1 **Dr Niall Brown**

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# New Fellows

1 July 2023 – 30 June 2024

The College congratulates the following individuals on their election to Fellowship, listed in order of Fellowship date.

Justin Hensley	Erin Fairlie	Emma Davey
Jo Carson	Ronik Ghosh	Jason Fong
Tom Fairclough	Lloyd Collier	Neill McCormack
Victoria Burrell	Chloe Siaw	Shenae Fletcher
Kathryn Maltby	David Humphreys	Cassandra Aubry
Hamish Brown	Tanya Vahala	Joshua Griffin
Alexandra Clarke	Rachel Halls	Kangho Cho
Joe Greenwood	Sandhya Prayaga	Arthur Teo
Amy Lee	Chris Lycett	Patrick O'Leary
David Liu	Tim Elliott	Vincent Tsui
Kristal Quek	Annabel James	Ilya Kardailsky
Michelle Boekelaar	Rachael Horner	Charles Rendel
Mac Ward Chamberlin	Deepak Sekaran	Natasha Devitt
Jessica Timmings	Rosie Bonner	Sanjeet Minhas
Erica Douglass	Lexi Nikolsky	Hung Diep
Gemma Brogan	Robyn Goodier	Phillip Colwell
Katie Youds Smith	Kapil Kumar	Sinead Taylor
Thomas van Dantzig	Ben Lee	Jie Yu Chia
Andrew Young	Sarah Carter	Pat Sangfai
Elliott Adamson	Philip Chua	Verity Marsh
David Stark	Kit Rowe	Dave Cosford
Shreyas Iyer	Kathryn Compson	Ed O'Connell
Amy Cui	Katie Hames	Peter Brendt
Jason Kollios	Katharine Yan	Jignesh Patel
Katie O'Halloran	Kat Hardiman	Ian Bricher
Brad Richardson	Jake Brunning	Yoong Ern Darren Liew
Liz Wyatt	Tristan Withers	Mya Thida
Jacqueline Dirou	David Stibbs	Jay Mudiyanse
Andy Sharma	Sally Bath	Victoria Mitchell
Caitlin Solomon	Euan Watt	Tim Amos
John Ang	Joann Chua	Holly Bannon-Murphy

Jenna She	Shearne Wilkie	Muhammad Aamir Faheem
Jacob Owen	Amanda Casey	Mohammed Shariff
Kelly Brown	Benjamin Sinnett	Saada Malouf
Avital Maisel	Oscar Wigginton	Shalina Navaratnam
Victoria Twigden	Andrew Moffat	Po Yu Huang
Jamie Burrows	Marrillo Jayasuriya	Aisha Jennings
Michelle Lee	Peter Saunders	Mohamed Ahmed Seif Mohamed
Krupa Mehta	Aimie Riding	Yueh-Che Hsieh
Shambhu Samota	Hayley Jowett	Ashutosh Kafle
Kylie Atkins	Brendan Sullohern	James Lim
Naomi Abdallah	Damon O'Leary-Counahan	Faye Johnston
Jesse Li	Dhanushia Karunanidhy	Elise Pascoe
Ruth Crossman	Alex Kingswell	Ben Darwent
Sarasvati Chauhan	Kai Wong	Lyndsay Christie
Shynn Ooi	Victoria Barbour	Graham Dawson
Dani Bersin	Rebecca Conrick	Sara Fraser
James Skinner	Danielle O'Brien	Jane Friedrich
Ayman Sofiyan	Ian Hunter	Rachel Ng
Juanita Gouveia	Oakkar Ko	James Greenwood
Laura Hodgson	Branco Wu	Daniel Loui
Liam McCollow	Matthew Kilmurray	Joel Pixley
Nasim Erfani	Kristy McCulloch	Julius Edwards
Denmore Maignurira	Sarah Rathe	Abban Quayle
Jae Thone	Melissa Davidson	Henry Elbourne-Binns
Jason Kwok	Andrew Rankin	George She
Usman Mansoor	Celestine Rickman	Georgina Beech
Jeet Kalsi	Hannah Knausenberger	Weif Kok
Arjun Thaur	Rebecca Barnes	Oine Omakwu
Fernando Bergo Bergo de Souza e Silva	Sarah Beatty	Thilini Kudagamage
Jonathan Stevenson	Ram Luxmikanthan	Gemma Ferris
	Damien Johnston	Meagan McLeod

## New Fellows con't

Nicole Jackson	Christina Lees	Chris Perkins
Stephanie Richling	Aidan Martin	Mohammed Morshed
Dominique Stower	Paul Campbell	Stephanie Lowe
Lukas Marchant	Marija Blazeska	Sally Hansen
Robert Nayer	Roxanne Dubash	Jason Wu
Jack Taylor	Gilbert Jin	Lionel Warren
Mitchell Wilcox	Elizabeth Garrard	Luke Uhlmann
Shoena Wotherspoon	Jiaqi Cai	Callum Gilmour
James McFarlane	Adele Hunter	Malcolm Ferguson
Jordan Doi	Paul Gilhooly	Thitipoom Aikphaibul
Tashika Jayasuriya	Saham Yasein	Stacey Tan
Andrew Wallace	Theo Clearwater	Melinda Swan
Stephen Cremonini	Charles Morgan	Divya Radhakrishnan
Andy Winfield	Annie Silvester	Mahmoud Masoud
Sarah Stoneman	Scott Ilgoutz	Hilde De Bruto
James Morris	Laura Castle	Maria Martino
Johnny Berger	Douglas Wills	Tamarind Reynolds
Grace Lau	Steve Jones	Malithi Korale
Chloe Morey	Alan Fahey	Sophie Michieletto
Max Allin	Nicholas Erskine	Stephanie Kremer
Omal Fernando	Harpreet Sandhu	Kelly Cottee
Meagan Thomson	Jadon Wong	Jane Armstrong
Navya Ramesh	Bronwyn Lever	Pioma Wijeyesakere
Rahil Kazemzadeh Atufi	Sheng Giap Chia	Charlie Salpea
Jacobus Wiese	Ben Tisdell	David Herbert
William Boroughf	Siti Noordin	Hollie Casey
Lisa TenEyck	Gabrielle Desmond	Chantelle Badawy
Anand Pratap	Shaela Doig	Matthew Thomas
Ronald Isaboke	Tim Martin	Madelaine Young
Mariez Gorgi	Paloma Lopez Lam	Hannah Primrose
Duy Le	Christopher Carman	Lauren Chalwell

## New Fellows con't

Walid Elsayed	Tjeerd Sleeswijk Visser
Daniel Campbell	Ali Al-Ghadhban
Meg McHugh	Daniel Fethney
Daniel Summers	Jenny Miller
Sheriff Adewunmi	Celia Bolden
Ruslan Fatikov	Alexandra Boyd
Luke Mansfield	Natalie Souyave
Dinuka Dadallage	
Mohammed Abdelaty	
Ari Miramo	
Hayley Anderson	
Jaydie Cottle	
Callum Barnes	
Charles Palmer	
Chris Blaney	
Samuel Bulford	
Hector Thomson	
Anirudh Krishnamohan	
David Emmerig	
Jenkin Tang	
Amy Knight	
Katie Woodhouse	
Stuart Vernon	
Victor Liu	
Laura Valentine	
Dmitry Bakshun	
Jack Marjot	
Darren Pezzack	
Guobin Boo	
Kati Smith	
Nelson Correia	

# EMC Graduates

1 July 2023 – 29 February 2024

The College congratulates the following ACEM Emergency Medicine Certificate (EMC) graduates.

Roderick Mera	Sarah Pearce	Keshara Perera
Asma Lilani	Gemma Ruddick	Roshika Mendis
Manoshi Wickramasinghe	Caleb Kim	David Sekyere
Wajeeha Batool	Jessica Paynter	Sehrish Bashir
Bushra Batool	Thomas Drake-Brockman	Daniela Almeida Varela
Thinzar Oo	Natalia Gutierrez Ramirez	Jock McKinnon
Ayesh Kodikara	Salwa Barmaky	Ammara Riaz
Christopher Ku	Jesse Noon	Toon Ong
Prashant Khobragade	Emma Armstrong (nee Trevena)	Alish McLeod
Luiz Cavalcante	Shazia Jehanzeb	Nariyoshi Miyata
Lucy Haynes	Niamh Curran	Akin Akinyandenu
Nicole Walker	Cassandra Poon	Grace Malcolm
David Breed	Samantha Terry	Curtis Wright
Ronald Leo	Kathryn Mau	Katherine Simson
Paul Cotton	Eleanor Lang	Hannah Pulford
Georgia Mountford	Gemma Walmsley	Lorne Thomson
Chamari Sumithra Arachchige	Jo Long	Ishara Ranawaka
Dona	Samuel Bartsch	Nushin Ahmed
Dilum Perera	Bree Lucas	Claudia McCulloch
Amanda Tan-Delli Cicchi	Ly Doan	Bryan Wong
Sudeera Deshan Deyagaha	Emily Nadolny	Dorota Beaulne
Witharanage	Daniel Moore	Sajeewani Silva
Chamanthi Ulluwishewa	Alana Robinson	Steven Chung
Sam Spenceley	Carl Barker	Laurence Sorace
Anne Fernando	Jose Sardana	Thilini Hewage
Tanuje Fonseka	Maxine Resnekov	Zeeshan Arain
Amali Weerakkody	Olga Mooney	Sassine El Nabbout
Muhamad Hanif Bin Kamil	Javed Badyari	Jancey Noaese-Tuala
Isabella White	Neil Mackay	Fayez Mourad
Emily Dutta-Powell	Chris Parker	Robert Yeoh
Lewis Walker	Andrew Choe	Jean Butoyi
Yaman Mujawaz	Jessica Piggott	Tayyeba Anam
Emma Kelly	Patrick Biggins	Nadiah Tadjoudine
Millie Williams		

## EMC Graduates con't

Basyar Bin K H Kamuruddin  
Annie Stevenson  
Meghan Feeney  
Norah Stan-Bishop  
Natasha Dean  
Rouzbeh Zahedi  
Branka Donevska  
Selu Taunaholo  
Meghan Suddaby  
Yiyun Tang  
Gayatri Gyawali  
Jessica Mitchell  
Tom Godfrey  
Jack Finn  
Zach Horn  
Somya Chugh  
Rikki Bobal  
Corinne Antonoff  
Anna Britton  
Kirri Bolton  
Roisin Davis  
Catherine Nortje  
Rachael Yagmich  
Rasha Elsharkawy  
Charlotte Steinberg  
Adina La Forgia  
Angela Park  
Visai Muruganandah  
Malcolm Braddock  
Joshua Briotti  
Erkin Bazarbaev  
Ken Lim  
Kelleigh Allport

Alida Lewis  
Naini Rao  
Damian Azzollini  
Molly Cookson  
Kaitlin Daw  
Amie Ringuet  
Ashley Bailey  
Janith Wanigatunga  
Bilal Khalid  
Nathan Cappelluti  
Jessica Garland  
Rebecca Webster  
Alexandros Tsathas  
Sahar Fatima  
David Woodbridge Barrett  
Tulika Saxena  
Ella Barclay  
Piyal Manage  
Emily Bruce  
Rong Chew  
Tom Spencer  
Sarah Paget  
Jack O'Halloran  
Eric Munro  
Annabelle Evans  
James Ang  
Tommy McKittrick  
Michelle Murphy  
Sarah Woodford  
Patrick Whelpdale  
Emily Fernandez  
Sam Preston  
Marieke Kruiswijk

Holly Barclay  
Michael Hood  
Rochelle Dowding  
Cici Chienliu  
James Greenhalgh  
Jeffrey Mak  
Layth Samari  
Lucy Robbins  
Tanni Tanni  
Abdul Ibrahim  
Kate Cook  
Timothy Robinson

# EMD Graduates

**1 July 2023 – 29 February 2024**

The College congratulates the following Emergency Medicine Diploma (EMD) graduates.

James Savage	David Rafla	Dana Ihdahid
Sarah Ross	Abdullah Haddid	Lisi Neoh
Sean Pham	Andrew Griffin	Bradley Fitzwater
Henry Villegas	Julie van der Klift	Andreas Tsangarides
Alan Nagatani-Rose	Sam Broadbent	Supun Punchihewa
Alexandra McDonald	Skye Curlis	Pippa Jackson
Eugene Taoi	Pip Knowler	Hasan Sarwar
Elizabeth Brewer	Michael Stone	Luke Billingsley
Felix Ogbo	Peter Dewing	Susy Benavente Lazo
Jaime Fox	Gabrielle Legendre	Haiko Jahn

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# EMAD Graduates

**1 July 2023 – 29 February 2024**

The College congratulates the following ACEM Emergency Medicine Advanced Diploma (EMAD) graduates.

Chris Katsogiannis	Kerry Whannel	Mark Perera
Ram Dandu	Phoebe Shiu	Mihir Roy
Jennifer White	Sanat Nandwana	Peter Fambirai
Andrew Parker	Julie Broadbent	Julian Barson
Joe Folorunsho	Mark Harkin	
Anna Salah	Ahmed Danyial	

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# IEMTP Graduates

**1 March 2024 – 30 June 2024**

The College congratulates the following Associateship in Intermediate Emergency Medicine (IEMTP) graduates.

Tim Dixon	Mitchell Scott	Mostafa Vahabi
Kelvin Muller	Janitha Balasuriya	George Khawam
Sowmya Asok Kumar	Elyne Fontana	
Damian Heman	David Wong	

# AEMTP Graduates

**1 March 2024 – 30 June 2024**

The College congratulates the following Associateship in Advanced Emergency Medicine (AEMTP) graduates.

Bhawanie Koonj Beharry

Ata Rahman

Camilo Burbano Vesga

Etwell Mari

Nick Snels

Nicole Carmody

Akeem Olanrewaju Lawal

Kiran Lalchhuankimi

Ameen Shaikh

Naseer Ahmad

Marjan Masoud

Dwijadas Ballal

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# DipPHRM Graduates

**1 July 2023 – 29 February 2024**

The College congratulates the following Diploma of Pre-Hospital and Retrieval Medicine (DipPHRM) graduates.

Helen Oliver

Elizabeth Gowen

Hamish Brown

Jacqueline Ward

Andrew Smith

Nick Pawula

Rachel Yee

Alexandra Nicoll

Jack Perry

Bianca Jodeikin

Ajay Venkatesh

Jonathon Hill-Best

Kate St Louis

Natalie Kay

Thomas Collins

Sue Johnson

Felicity Gilbert

Kirstin Coggins

Ben Jacka

Douglas Wills

Scott Farenden

Robbie Ley Greaves

Anil Joshi

Samuel Bulford

Richard Parker

Nathan West

Edward Champion

Ross Farrar

Gareth Kitson

Tom Brown

Stephen Wood

Wendy Gallimore

David Humphreys

Timothy Langford

Cheryl-Ann Bird

Jessica Anne Hegedus

Seira Ikeuchi

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# PHRMTP Graduates

**1 March 2024 – 30 June 2024**

The College congratulates the following Associateship in Pre-Hospital and Retrieval Medicine graduates.

Kathryn Compson

Kimberley Lawrie

ACEM would like to acknowledge the passing of members and trainees during the past year and extend its condolences to family members, colleagues and friends.

## **Dr Kong Liew**

(1972 – 2023)

Dr Kong Liew, or Kong as he was commonly known amongst his friends and colleagues, was a senior general and paediatric emergency physician who had been part of the Redcliffe ED and hospital family for over 15 years, since his move to Queensland in search of a better work and family balance. He found that balance here, splitting his time evenly between the Redcliffe ED and the Queensland Children's Hospital ED, tirelessly providing quality care to both communities.

Those of us who knew Kong, knew him as a kind and gentle person who always had the time and patience for his patients and colleagues. In his 18-year career as an emergency physician, he accomplished plenty. He was a senior examiner for the Australasian College for Emergency Medicine (ACEM) and contributed extensively to the education of junior doctors and emergency trainees in the area of paediatric emergency medicine and bedside ultrasound. Kong was one of the main drivers behind the development of our newly established paediatric wing of Redcliffe ED, an area where dedicated and high-quality care can be delivered to the children of Redcliffe.

Kong's contribution to Redcliffe Hospital wasn't just within the four walls of our ED. His influence was far reaching and reflected in the many relationships he had built over the years with colleagues in paediatrics, medicine, anaesthetics, surgery, intensive care and allied health, to name a few. He had also collaborated with many other institutions state-wide due to his involvement and expertise in delivering paediatric education and care.

Despite all his achievements, Kong remained a humble clinician, hardly claiming any kudos for all his work. He had always maintained that his reward in practicing medicine was seeing the improved outcomes in patient care, particularly the most vulnerable ones, and also the progression of his peers and trainees under his guidance. As a clinician Kong exemplified great leadership, incorporating the values of diligence, humility, patience and grace.

His time with us, especially in the ED, has left an indelible mark that will not soon be forgotten. His selflessness and sacrifice for the greater good of our patients is something we should all strive for, despite the hardships and barriers we face on a daily basis. Kong never played the blame game. He was inclusive and collaborative and made sure it was always about the patient. He maintained a positive outlook to the very end and, even in the midst of his own struggles with the illness that finally claimed his life, he still found the time to connect with the people that mattered and that brought him joy.

We will miss you greatly, especially in the ED, for all the friendship, wisdom and guidance you have provided over the years, Kong. May you rest in peace.

*Author: Dr Jason Chan*

## Dr Camilo Burbano Vesga

(1972 – 2023)

It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of Dr Juan Camilo Burbano Vesga on 27 May, 2024. Born on December 8, 1979, in Ecuador, Camilo obtained his undergraduate medical degree at Quito University and true to his adventurous nature, migrated to Australia in 2010.

Camilo obtained his general registration in 2013, and on joining the Australasian College for Emergency Medicine (ACEM) in 2016 he dedicated himself to emergency services with remarkable determination and resilience. As an international medical graduate, he faced numerous challenges which he overcame through sheer hard work and perseverance and ultimately achieved the Emergency Medicine Advanced Diploma in April 2024.

Known for his fantastic sense of humour and infectious smile, Camilo brought joy to everyone around him. His cheeky nature, his love for gadgets and bedside ultrasonography endeared him to many. Camilo was not only a dedicated doctor but also an incredibly supportive colleague and friend. His willingness to go above and beyond for others was a hallmark of his character.

Camilo's legacy as a compassionate healer and a beloved friend will live on in the hearts of those who had the privilege of knowing him. He will be dearly missed by his family, colleagues, friends and all who encountered his uplifting spirit.

Rest in peace, Camilo. Your memory will always bring a smile to our faces and warmth to our hearts.

*Author: Dr Robyn Gunn*

## Dr John van der Post

(1962 – 2024)

The WA Country Health Service and the Albany Health Campus ED team mourn the passing of Dr John van der Post on 4 January 2024.

Described by his colleagues as a thorough gentleman and champion of rural and remote healthcare, Dr van der Post first joined the team at Albany Health Campus in 2009. Here, he played a pivotal role in designing and implementing the hospital critical care model ahead of opening the new facility in 2013.

Despite the demands of his role, Dr van der Post was a passionate educator and dedicated much of his time to supporting staff of all disciplines. He also understood the importance of relationships and actively encouraged and nurtured these with his colleagues.

As co-head of Albany's Emergency Department, Dr van der Post was instrumental in the COVID response during the pandemic as well as ensuring the facility continued to safely meet increases in service demand.

He had been an integral member of the WACHS Command Centre since 2015 and helped the WA Country Health Service establish and trial the technology required to expand its medical workforce overseas.

Dr van der Post worked in Albany, Kalgoorlie and Bunbury, and prior to joining country health, John held specialist appointments at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital, Joondalup Health Campus, and St John Ambulance.

While his professional accolades are many, most of all, he will be remembered for being a thoroughly kind, humble, compassionate doctor, colleague, and friend who loved his family, pup Ruby, fly fishing and cricket.

Dr van der Post dedicated much of his career to advancing health outcomes in country WA and we are all the poorer without him.

Vale, John – it's been excellent.

*Author: Dr Richard Leslie*



*ACEM's President and Executive Management take this opportunity to thank the ACEM staff for their exemplary standard of work and continued passion for working to support ACEM's members, trainees and Associates.*





**Australasian College for Emergency Medicine**  
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