ANZES NEWSLETTER

AUSTRALIAN & NEW ZEALAND ENDOCRINE SURGEONS

KEY MEETINGS 2026:

First independent IAES meeting, Sydney (6–8 November 2026), preceded by a **Post-Graduate**



Australian and New Zealand Endocrine Surgeons
September 2026 — Issue #6

ANZES Members: 177

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Message from the President

A/Prof Christine O'Neill

In this newsletter we detail information about past and future meetings, updates to our membership and fellowship training pathways, as well as opportunities to connect both virtually and in person. Please take the time to read this.

Firstly, I want to congratulate David Leong and Sharin Pradhan on running a fantastic program in endocrine surgery at the RASC ASC in Perth. Thanks also to Catherine Sinclair for flying to Perth for a single day to assist with the advanced ultrasound course. Perth turned on some unusual foggy weather, and we were treated to several paradigm advancing talks by Thomas Musholt. I greatly enjoyed catching up with many endocrine surgery friends.

In Sydney in June, Edwina Moore and Anna Story ran a highly successful thyroid and parathyroid ultrasound course. The course was fully subscribed and feedback positive. We will continue to run these courses over the coming years. There is also an excellent course available in neck dissection in

Perth. Information on both courses has been added to the website. These sorts of courses are often oversubscribed, so if you are interested in future courses, please add your name to the waiting lists.

I've attached at the end of this newsletter the slides I presented in Perth summarising the results of the membership survey from 2025. Please take time to digest the data which covers perceptions of our membership on fellowship training, the role of ANZES and ANZTCR. From this data I have developed some overarching goals for our organisation:

1) **Quality -** Promote high-quality endocrine surgery
2) **Education** – train the next generation of endocrine surgeons and provide career-long professional development for ANZES members
3) **Progress** – support research and innovation in endocrine surgery

I would also like to draw your attention to the recently international published guidelines regarding standardised reporting of post-operative hypoparathyroidism. This process was contributed to be some of our membership. Please read the attached article and associated commentary. I would encourage all of us to use these new definitions in clinical practice. Surgical quality can only be measured if we all use standardised outcome measures.

Finally, I hope to see all of you in person in Manly in November (6-8th) for the IAES meeting and associated ANZES/IAES postgraduate course (November 5th). The post-graduate course is recognised by GSA as a training day for SETs so please also encourage their attendance. It is rare for such a high-quality international faculty visit our shores. The meeting promises to be of excellent quality academically with many opportunities to connect with our colleagues from ANZ but also internationally.





Dr Edwina Moore and *Dr Anna Story - Endocrinologist*

The 2nd Australian Endocrine Ultrasound Course was held in Sydney on Friday, 5 June. Co-convened by **Dr Edwina Moore** and **Dr Anna Story**, the programme featured a morning of eight lectures delivered by a distinguished multidisciplinary faculty spanning radiology, endocrinology and endocrine surgery. In the afternoon, delegates rotated through six clinical stations offering live patient scanning, fine-needle aspiration (FNA) practice and cytology.

The course is accredited by the Australasian Society for Ultrasound in Medicine (ASUM) and supports clinicians working toward the Certificate in Clinician Performed Ultrasound (CCPU).

Dates for the 2027 course have not yet been finalised. Those interested in attending are invited to register their interest https://www.endocrinesurgeons.org.au/australian-endocrine-ultrasound-course.html

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Community Outreach
Dr Benedict Kakala



I am pleased to announce that we have launched the ANZES Instagram account (@**anzesurgeons**), alongside our established Facebook presence, to advance professional collaboration among Endocrine surgeons across Australia and New Zealand. We will use our platforms to disseminate the latest technology, research and elevate our standard of care in Endocrine surgery. Our social media strategy prioritizes credible, peer-focused content – including expert led clinical tips, case-based discussions with de-identified data, live updates from conferences and training events, and summaries of landmark studies.

We will highlight multidisciplinary care, surgical technique innovations, quality improvement initiatives, and our latest clinical guidelines to promote professional dialogue and knowledge exchange. Accountability is ensured through citation of original data, transparency, and adherence to patient privacy and ethical guidelines. We will track our social media account metrics such as reach within the medical profession, engagement per posts and follower growth rate. We will also conduct surveys amongst colleagues gathering information / feedback to further refine our professional content mix and maximize impact on practice and education within our region.



Public Officer

Dr Simon Harper

I am delighted to welcome our new members to the ANZES community!

The executive and wider membership look forward to the ideas, energy, and perspectives you will bring to our society and patients. Through your contributions new members and associate members alike will shape the future of ANZES and Endocrine surgery care in our countries and I would like to take this opportunity to personally encourage you to participate fully, connect with fellow members, and take advantage of the many opportunities available through our society. One great way of doing this is by attending some of the meetings we're putting on in 2026!!:

We extend a warm welcome to the following new members:

- **Dr Katherine Grant**
- **Dr Rufi Chen**
- **Dr Jodie Trautman**
- **Dr Helena Lee**
- **Dr Ajith George**
- **Dr Daniel Oh**
- **Dr Zeng Yap**
- **Dr Stephen Kinsey-Trotman**
- **Dr Soumya Hariswamy**
- **Dr Yen-Ni Yu**
- **Dr Muzib Abdul Razak**

Training and Education



Dr Ronald Guevara

ANZES Fellowship Program – 2027 Fellowship Placements Finalised

The ANZES Fellowship selection and placement process for 2027 has now been finalised.

We are pleased to announce the following fellowship appointments:

- **Dr Nelson Granchi** – Royal Adelaide Hospital, Adelaide
- **Dr Roy Huynh** – St George Hospital, Sydney
- **Dr Samantha Jolly** – Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital, Brisbane
- **Dr Luke Peters** – The Alfred Hospital, Melbourne
- **Dr Jacqueline Hawthorne** – Continuing second-year fellow at Liverpool Hospital, Sydney

We would like to thank all participating hospitals, supervisors and fellows for their engagement throughout this year's selection process.

Their ongoing commitment has ensured the continuation of high-quality endocrine surgery fellowship training opportunities across the ANZES network. We greatly appreciate everyone's support and look forward to another successful fellowship training year in 2027



Younger Fellows Chair

Dr Jessica Preece

Final session: Tuesday, 27 October 2026, 7pm AEDT

The most recent younger fellows journal club was held on Tuesday 9th June. Thank you to Jacqueline Hawthorne and Michelle Zhao for your wonderful presentations on surgical education. Journal Club continues to be a wonderful way to create discussion and engagement amongst members so thank you to everyone for your participation, we are reliably seeing around 30 attendees at each meeting.

If you have any topics or papers that you would like to discuss in journal club, or if you would like to give a presentation, please reach out to me.

The final journal club for ***2026 will be held on October 27th*** where we look forward to hearing presentations from Jay Maloney and Soumya Hariswamy.

Research & Scientific Officer

A/Prof James Lee



Jassal and colleagues[1] recently published a systematic review and meta-analysis examining the use of artificial intelligence to help diagnose indeterminate thyroid nodules before surgery. Importantly, they excluded genomic sequencing classifiers, focusing instead on potentially more accessible approaches. Seven studies were included, covering 20 different AI models. Most were based on ultrasound imaging, with only one using cytological features and one using natural language processing of clinical notes.

Overall, the results were encouraging but far from practice-changing. Across 16 reported AUCs (area under the curve, a measure of diagnostic accuracy), the pooled performance was 0.82 (1.0 representing perfect discrimination, with > 0.8 generally considered good performance). Deep-learning models, with greater computational demands, appeared to perform slightly better, with a pooled AUC of 0.85, but the results varied enormously between studies. Simpler machine-learning models were less impressive, with a pooled AUC of 0.75, but were considerably more consistent. Perhaps more importantly, several models that performed very well during development lost much of that advantage when tested in an external population. One model, for example, fell from an AUC of 0.88 internally to 0.68 on external validation. A previously developed commercial tool, AIBx, achieved an external accuracy of only around 51–53%. The take-home message is therefore fairly clear, there are promising developments, but none of these models is ready for routine, widespread clinical use, and robust independent validation remains a major weakness.

There are also some interesting lessons for endocrine surgeons. Five of the seven studies were predominantly radiology-driven, one was cytology-based and one used information extracted from medical records. In other words, much of this work is currently being done around us rather than by us. That represents an opportunity. Surgeons are particularly well placed to help shape these tools because we understand not only the diagnostic question, but also how an estimate of malignancy risk actually influences decisions on subsequent management for our patients.

Just as importantly, the likely role of AI here is as an adjunct to clinical decision-making rather than as an autonomous decision-maker. The authors highlight the familiar problems of the AI “black box”, limited interpretability and the difficulty of explaining an algorithmic recommendation to patients. Even techniques such as heat maps have so far provided relatively little additional clinical insight. More interactive systems, in which clinicians can interrogate or modify an AI-generated assessment, may prove more useful. For now, however, AI in the indeterminate thyroid nodule remains a promising decision-support tool rather than a replacement for clinical judgement.

Anyone interested in pursuing a PhD in endocrine surgery related projects, please contact A/Prof James Lee or A/Prof Christine O'Neill.

1. Jassal K, Edwards M, Koohestani A, Brown W, Serpell JW, Lee JC. Beyond genomics: artificial intelligence-powered diagnostics for indeterminate thyroid nodules-a systematic review and meta-analysis. Front Endocrinol. 2025 May 5;16:1506729. doi: 10.3389/fendo.2025.1506729.



Dr David Leong

Endocrine Surgery Section Convenor, RACS ASC 2026
ANZES Executive

RACS ASC 2026 Perth: Endocrine Surgery Section

The Endocrine Surgery Section at the 94th RACS Annual Scientific Congress was held in Perth from 30 April to 2 May 2026 and proved to be an outstanding three days of education, discussion and collegiality.

The meeting commenced with the Thyroid Ultrasound Masterclass for Surgeons, a full-day, ASUM-accredited course held at the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre. The course combined focused teaching with practical instruction in surgeon-performed ultrasound, fine-needle aspiration, and radiofrequency ablation. The interactive format and hands-on stations provided participants with skills that could be directly translated into endocrine surgical practice.

This was followed by the two-day Endocrine Surgery scientific program on 1 and 2 May. We were privileged to welcome Professor Thomas Musholt from Germany and Associate Professors Frederick Drake and Sophie Dream from the United States. Their contributions brought valuable international perspectives and complemented an excellent program of invited presentations, scientific papers, clinical discussion and contributions from surgeons and trainees across Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand.

The strength of the meeting was its combination of high-quality science, practical education and open discussion. It also provided an important opportunity for members of our community to reconnect, exchange ideas and establish new collaboration, reflecting the broader Congress theme, The Art and Science of Collaboration.

I would like to thank my co-convenor, Dr Sharin Pradhan, our international and local faculty, session chairs, presenters, abstract contributors and the RACS events team. Most importantly, thank you to all ANZES members who attended and contributed so enthusiastically. Your participation made the Perth meeting a success.

International Association of Endocrine Surgeons (IAES)

POST-GRADUATE COURSE



THURSDAY NOVEMBER 5, 2026 | **ELYSIUM MANLY, SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA**

8:45am INTRODUCTION

Introduction: Prof Janice Pasieka (President IAES) , Prof Herb Chen, Prof Mark Sywak

9:00am – 10:30am SESSION 1: ADRENAL SURGERY

Session Chair: Prof Allan Siperstein (USA)

Expert Panel: Prof Martin Walz (GERMANY), Prof Julie Miller (AUSTRALIA), Prof Ilma Conradie (SOUTH AFRICA), Prof Insoo Suh (USA)

Case Presenters:

- Daniel Gomez Carrillo (USA) (Coordinator)
- Yi Sia (AUSTRALIA)
- Krystle Saunderson (SOUTH AFRICA)
- Emily Webber (SOUTH AFRICA)
- Marin Kheng (USA)

Cases

- Adrenal incidentaloma (Krystle Saunderson)
- A case requiring bilateral adrenalectomy-retroperitoneal (Yi Sia)
- Primary Hyperaldosteronism with Venous Sampling (Marin Kheng)
- Pheochromocytoma (Emily Webber)
- Cushings Syndrome - adenoma (Marin Kheng)
- Adrenal cortical cancer (Yi Sia)

10:30am – 11:00am BREAK

11:00am – 12:30pm SESSION 2: BENIGN THYROID DISEASE AND THYROID SURGERY TECHNIQUES

Session Chair: Prof Menno Vriens (NETHERLANDS)

Expert Panel: Prof Sophie Dream (USA), Prof Frederic Triponez (SWITZERLAND), Prof Sarah Parangi (USA), Prof Ming Yew (AUSTRALIA), Prof Tina Kuo (TAIWAN)

Case Presenters:

- Ron Wang (USA) (Coordinator)
- Michelle Zhao (AUSTRALIA)
- Alexa Lisevick (USA)
- Paige McKinley (CANADA)
- Kang Su (TAIWAN)

Cases

- Hyperthyroidism (Alexa Lisevick)
- Benign Goitre (Michelle Zhao)
- Substernal Goitre (Kang Su)
- Ablative techniques (Paige McKinley)
- Standard thyroidectomy and loss of signal on neuromonitoring (Michelle Zhao)
- Post op PTH and other protocols after total thyroidectomy (Ron Wang)

12:30pm – 1:30pm LUNCH BREAK

SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM



1:30pm – 3:00pm

SESSION 3: MALIGNANT THYROID DISEASE

Session Chair: Prof Christine O'Neill (AUSTRALIA)

Expert Panel: Prof Julie Ann Sosa (USA), Prof Linwah Yip (USA), Prof Yasuhiro Ito (JAPAN), Prof Jee Soo Kim (KOREA), Prof Kerstin Lorenz (GERMANY), Prof Kyu Eun Lee (KOREA)

Case Presenters:

- Rachael Caretti (USA) (Coordinator)
- Joanna Marx (GERMANY)
- Shiori Kawano (JAPAN)
- Shiori Adachi (JAPAN)
- Lilley Jack (USA)
- Yeojin Kim (KOREA)

Cases

- Indeterminate Thyroid nodule (Lilley Jack)
- Differentiated Thyroid Cancer (Yeojin Kim)
- Micro PTC observation (Shiori Kawano)
- Micro PTC treatment (Shiori Adachi)
- Medullary Thyroid Cancer (Joanna Marx)
- Advanced Thyroid Cancer (Joanna Marx)

3:00pm – 3:30pm **BREAK**

3:30pm – 5:00pm

SESSION 4: PARATHYROID DISEASE

Session Chair: Prof Nancy Perrier (USA)

Expert panel: Prof Michael Singer (USA), Prof Inga-Lena Nilsson (SWEDEN), Mr Stephen Farrell (AUSTRALIA), Prof Carmen Solorzano (USA), Dr Deepak Abraham (INDIA/BAHRAIN)

Case Presenters:

- Peter Abraham (USA) (Coordinator)
- Ses Karalus (AUSTRALIA)
- Swarna Azariah (INDIA)
- Sofia Anaya Sanchez (MEXICO)

Cases

- Primary HPT ectopic (Ses Karalus)
- Primary HPT-MEN (Ses Karalus)
- Reoperative parathyroidectomy (Swarna Azariah)
- Secondary HPT (Sofia Anaya Sanchez)
- Tertiary Hyperparathyroidism (Peter Abraham)

5:00pm **PROGRAM CONCLUDES**

UAB MEDICINE | Surgery

AUSTRALIAN & NEW ZEALAND ENDOCRINE SURGEONS

Royal Australasian College of Surgeons

The Post Graduate Course has been approved as a National Educational Activity by the GSET Program of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons