



Awards

2023 Graham Coupland Lecture and Medal

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2023 Women in Leadership Award

A/Prof Margaret Schnitzler

2023 NSW Merit Award

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The Graham Coupland Lecture and Medal

G.A.E. Coupland (1934-1982), had a distinguished, but short, career as a gastric and paediatric surgeon. Coupland graduated in medicine from the University of Sydney in 1959 and obtained his Master of Surgery from the same institution in 1975. He was a brilliant and natural surgeon, especially of the upper gastrointestinal tract. He later turned his attention to the surgery of children.

As Supervisor of Surgery for the University of Sydney, he was an admired and respected teacher at Royal North Shore Hospital. In 1976 he was appointed associate professor. He also taught at the Singapore General Hospital under the Colombo Plan. He was an energetic and enthusiastic member of the New South Wales Regional Committee from 1978 to 1982.

2023 Graham Coupland Lecture and Medal Recipient



A/Prof Laurencia Villalba

Graham Coupland Lecture:
The world belongs to the BOLD

A/Prof. Laurencia Villalba is the Head of the Vascular Surgery Department for ISLHD, Clinical Lead and Founder of the Venous Thromboembolism service and Founder of the Vascular Care Centre in Wollongong.

She was the first supervisor of training for Vascular Surgery in Wollongong and the first female member of the Court of Examiners for Vascular Surgery.



2023 NSW Merit Award Recipient

Dr Angus Gray

Angus is a paediatric orthopaedic spine surgeon with an interest in education. He was a RACS Examiner in Orthopaedics for 9 years and Senior Examiner in 2020 to 2022. The Pandemic created myriad problems which were successfully navigated by the Court of Examiners and their teams.



2023 Women in Leadership Award Recipient

A/Prof Margaret Schnitzler

Margaret Schnitzler was the first female colorectal surgeon appointed in Australia when she commenced practice in 1996.

She is currently Associate Professor in Surgery, University of Sydney, co-Deputy Head of Sydney Medical School and Head of the Northern Clinical School. Margaret has clinical appointments at RNSH and North Shore Private Hospital.



2023 Service to the Community Award Recipient

Dr Raffi Qasabian

Dr Raffi Qasabian is a vascular and kidney transplant surgeon in Sydney with an outreach program in regional NSW and Armenia. He has been Chairman of the RACS NSW State Committee. Raffi is a keen teacher, is currently an examiner in vascular surgery and has commenced PhD studies.



2023 Medical Student Award Recipient

James Lockhart

James has a particular interest in trauma surgery and will be undergoing his internship year at Liverpool Hospital next year. Currently, he is finishing his MD at the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital with Sydney University. There, he is also a research assistant at SOURCE, investigating the outcomes of pelvic exenteration.

**All surgeons should maintain trauma
skills: Debate**

RACS Medical Student Essay 2023

by James Lockhart

**Read
essay
here**



2023 Innovation Award

Dr Bish Soliman

Dr. Bish Soliman is a Specialist Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeon specialising in complex microsurgical reconstruction. After completing his training locally, he was granted the prestigious Morgan travelling fellowship by the RACS and completed 12 months of advanced sub-speciality training in highly contested international fellowships in North America. Dr Soliman has an interest in research and is widely published on a range of topics including operating room efficiency and breast surgery. He is currently a research supervisor with the University of Sydney and the supervisor of training at RNSH. Dr Soliman is passionate about teaching and mentoring the future generation of Plastic Surgeons at both Westmead and Royal North Shore hospitals.



Royal Australasian
College of Surgeons