

THE HANDSHAKE

The Australian Hand Surgery Society



Glass sculpture by AHSS member Randall Sach

NEWSLETTER

President's Report

The 15th IFSSH Congress was held in London in June. The meeting was combined with the IFSHT and FESSH meetings and attended by over 3,600 registrants from 89 countries.

At this meeting one of our members, Professor Michael Tonkin, was recognised as a Pioneer of Hand Surgery. As Michael was unable to attend, I was honoured to accept this award on his behalf as a representative of the AHSS.

I also represented the AHSS at the IFSSH President's dinner held at the Barber Surgeons Hall, hosted by the British Society for Surgery of the Hand.

We will be able to return the hospitality to the BSSH surgeons who will be our guest society at next year's AHSS meeting in Sydney (March 1-4) which is being convened by Richard Lawson and Sarah Tolerton. Our guest speakers include Max Haerle from Markgröningen in Germany, Chuck Goldfarb from Washington University, St. Louis, and Jagdeep Nanchalal from the University of Oxford. Please promote the meeting to your colleagues in the UK and submit abstracts for presentations. It will be a great opportunity to catch up in person after the COVID hibernation. Details about the meeting are available on the AHSS website.

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The AHSS board has been engaging with the Department of Health about the recent MBS schedule review. The society has a committee chaired by Mark Baker that is providing the Department of Health with advice about the inevitable shortcomings of the MBS schedule, particularly with respect to the wording of item numbers that can make its application unworkable and identifying where there are gaps in the schedule where no item numbers are available. This follows on from the work of Tony Berger, Stephen Coleman and Cameron McKay with the Medicare Taskforce in helping to revise the schedule. This is an ongoing effort that benefits all of us and we thank Mark and Jeff Ecker, in particular, for their work. If you have any queries about the schedule as it stands and suggestions, there is a forum that can be accessed through the members' area of the website, where members can post questions and Mark and his subcommittee will take them up.

There have been a number of meetings attended by board representatives on behalf of the society. Greg Bain attended the AOA Diversity and Inclusion Strategy Workshop in Cairns in June and his report appears in this newsletter. Ian Hargreaves represented the AHSS at the AMA private health summit in Canberra in June. This meeting was attended by government, private health insurers and providers including clinical leads of the various subs. As we all know, the landscape is changing in provision of surgery in both public and private arenas and the board will continue to take up opportunities to keep the society informed as to what changes are likely to impact us. Jenny Green represented AHSS at the AMA National Meeting of Colleges, Associations & Societies on 29 July where ongoing discussions were held.

Finally, I would like to congratulate Jenny Green on being awarded the AMA Diversity in Medicine Award for 2022. Jenny received this award at the recent national AMA meeting in recognition for her work championing diversity, equity, and inclusion in orthopaedics, including implementing the AOA's inaugural Diversity Strategy and establishing the AOA Cultural Inclusion Working Group. We are fortunate to have within our ranks talented and dedicated surgeons such as Jenny who make significant contributions, not only within hand surgery but in the broader surgical community, that benefit all of us. Congratulations Jenny.



LEFT: AHSS President David McCombe accepting Pioneer of Hand Surgery Award on behalf of Michael Tonkin

RIGHT: Jennifer Green, AHSS Secretary and recipient of AMA Diversity in Medicine Award 2022



Congratulations Sarah Tolerton



Dr Sarah Tolerton has taken over from me as the new Director of the St Luke's Hospital Hand Unit. I think this is the first time a female surgeon has been head of a major teaching hand unit.

The St Luke's unit was founded in 1992 with Tim Herbert as Director, Bruce Conolly, Ian Isaacs and myself. It has grown from 4 to 7 surgeons, Doug When, Peter Scougall, Tim Heath, John Tawfik, Sarah Tolerton, Anna Watson, and Lianne Bissell. We have always had an ecumenical mix of Hand Surgeons from general, orthopaedic and plastic surgery backgrounds, with previous Directors being 2 of orthopaedic, and 2 of general surgery origin.

Sarah is the first Hand surgeon from a plastic surgery origin to be Director.

- Ian Hargreaves

AHSS 50th Anniversary - by Roland Hicks

The Australian Hand Surgery Society – 50 Years Young

In preparing this article I have referred to the published works by Richard Honner and more recently by Tony Berger, the presentations by our Foundation Members, Bill Cumming, Peter Milroy, Scott Harbison and Richard Honner in Port Douglas in March, and the Society archives.

The First Twenty-five Years

In the Beginning

Over the course of the first decades after the Second World War hand surgery, as a specialty, evolved gradually in Australia, with hand problems being managed by orthopaedic, plastic and general surgeons.

In Sydney, in 1961, interested surgeons started to meet regularly to discuss hand surgery clinical cases, leading to the formation of the New South Wales Hand Surgery Association in 1963. John Hueston from Melbourne and Peter Milroy from Brisbane were interstate members. Other states subsequently followed suit.

Senior surgeons from Melbourne, including John Hueston and Benjamin Rank, met with the NSWWSA office bearers in 1971 and 1972 and the concept of a national hand surgery society was developed.

On 1st July 1972, 47 surgeons from around the country met at the British Medical Association building in Macquarie Street, Sydney, to consider and approve a constitution and to elect office bearers. These became the “Foundation Members” and their names are listed in our handbook. Thus the “Australian Hand Club” was formed.

The Early Years

In 1974 sixteen members of the Club made a rewarding and productive tour of hand surgery centres in the USA establishing contacts and friendships which would last for many years.

For the first few years the annual meeting was held in major centres. The meeting in 1981 at Wilpena Pound was the first of many to be held in smaller venues in scenic parts of Australia and beyond. The pace of life and of the meetings was more genteel and time for interaction away from the conference room was valued more – usually with a half day for sport and often a day trip to e.g., the Great Ocean Road or the Western MacDonnell Ranges. If we were to travel to an out of the way venue, we should make the most of the opportunity to explore that part of our country.

Not all excursions were uneventful. As Richard Honner gave us a firsthand account in March, as part of the annual meeting at Hayman Island in Queensland in 1983 there was an excursion to a coral reef far out to sea. A fierce storm suddenly occurred, and some scuba diving members were marooned on a reef in a rising tide. A very stressful and perilous situation was resolved when they were rescued by a passing ship that night and reunited with their families and friends the next day.

The International Stage

The Australian Hand Club joined the International Federation of Societies for Surgery of the Hand (IFSSH) in 1977. Two years later Bernard O'Brien was President of the Federation and presided over the inaugural Scientific Congress of the IFSSH in Rotterdam in 1980 and the second congress in Boston three years later.

A highlight of the early years of the Australian Hand Club was the International Hand Surgery Congress in Melbourne in November 1979. The detailed planning by the hard-working organising committee, under the chairmanship of Bernard O'Brien, is meticulously recorded in the archives. The meeting was very successful with over 300 surgeons from 21 countries in attendance. Four travelling guest professors were invited, and they also made major contributions to the post congress meetings around the country. As an Orthopaedic trainee I attended a Registrar instructional course in Melbourne the day after the congress finished, given by a star-studded cast of hand surgery giants. Small wonder I became a hand surgeon.

The Hand Club met with the New Zealand Hand Club in Wanaka, New Zealand, in October 1988 and with the Singapore Society for Hand Surgery in 1989 in Singapore and had another combined meeting with the New Zealanders in Cairns in September 1996.

At the annual meeting in Broome in 1990 the name of the organisation was changed, and we became “The Australian Hand Surgery Society”.

In our twenty-fifth year the Australian Society hosted the Inaugural Congress of the recently formed Asian Pacific Federation of Societies for Surgery of the Hand (APFSSH) in Perth in March 1997, organized by Mark Allison, opening a new chapter in the scope of our activities.

The Second Twenty-five Years in the next "Handshake"

Roland Hicks



Meet a Member - Eugene Ek

Active member & Co-convenor combined AHSS/ASSH ASM 2024 - Maui, Hawaii

Why did you join AHSS?

I feel that the AHSS is the premier hand surgery society in Australia, and I feel that it is very important for those of us who predominantly practice hand surgery to be part of a group of like-minded surgeons, to share ideas and perform research together and work together in matters of patients' advocacy. Also, there is a great opportunity to interact with hand surgeons throughout the country, both junior and senior.

Do you have any particular areas of interest in hand surgery practice/research?

My main areas of interest in hand and wrist surgery are:

- Scaphoid fractures / nonunion
- Scapholunate ligament injuries / reconstruction
- Wrist arthroscopy
- TFCC pathology



Where did you do Fellowship/PFET training and what were the highlights?

1. Hand Surgery Fellowship, Dandenong Hospital, Melbourne - Dr. Stephen Tham (12 months)
2. Hand, Upper extremity and Microsurgery fellowship, Hospital for Special Surgery, New York (12 months)

How do you define success?

Success to me is being able to achieve the goals you set out to achieve. In surgery, there is also the added aspect of knowing that you've done everything you possibly can to get the best possible result for the patient.

Who is your biggest inspiration and why?

Mr Stephen Tham has been my biggest inspiration in my hand surgery career. Ever since I was a junior resident, I had always thought that he was a pretty "cool" guy and an amazing technical surgeon, and he was one of the main reasons I pursued hand surgery as a subspeciality. I've been very fortunate to have been trained and mentored by him over the years and I am constantly inspired by the way he has continued to have such a balanced lifestyle, with such focused dedication for teaching and research, while at the same time pursuing various interests outside medicine, such as olive oil making and growing edible flowers.

How has AHSS helped you throughout your career?

AHSS has allowed me to be involved in the scientific meetings, both as a delegate and more recently as a convenor of the 2020 AHSS Registrars conference and 2024 AHSS / ASSH Combined meeting in Hawaii. It's been a fantastic opportunity to interact with hand surgeons across the country and also prominent hand surgeons from around the world.

What have been your personal career highlights?

I've recently come back from the ABC Travelling Fellowship where I represented the AOA and travelled to USA and Canada for 5 weeks, visiting prominent Orthopaedic centres. This was certainly a very memorable trip, both in terms

of networking and also in learning about leadership skills, especially in the setting of large academic institutions. It was a real privilege to meet some of the giants in orthopaedic surgery and be part of a rich tradition of ABC fellows.

What advice would you give to new Members of AHSS?

Get involved in the society and get to know other members, especially the senior surgeons. There's a lot of experience and wisdom that can be shared.

What advice would you give your younger post-fellowship self?

Start the way you want to finish. Pace yourself. It's a long career!

Tell us a fun fact about yourself that not many people know?

I was a shot putter in high school and went to the Victorian state championships. I also represented University of Melbourne at the Uni Games, until it became apparent that a 5 foot 8 inch guy with small hands probably didn't have much of a future in the sport!

A message from APFSSH

On behalf of the organizing committee, it is our great pleasure to invite your members to attend the 13th APFSSH, 9th APFSHT & 8th APWA taking place on 31 May to 3 June 2023 in Singapore.

For the first time, we are combining significant meetings for hand and wrist surgeons and therapists in one major event. Our theme is "Diverse & Inclusive". We aim to bring together friends and colleagues from all over the world for an exciting and multi-faceted scientific program with meaningful exchanges of ideas amongst international experts in their respective subspecialties.

We will also showcase our vibrant and safe multicultural and multi-ethnic communities and wonderful sights like Marina Bay and Singapore Botanical Gardens, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Please help up forward this to your members, and could we also request the help of your secretariat to send out future updates.

We hope to meet you in Singapore in 2023.

Yours sincerely,



Abstract submissions close on 20th October

Visit website for more information apfssh.net

IFSSH Report - Greg Bain

International Federation of Societies for Surgery of the Hand

The IFSSH is a federation of Hand Surgery Nations, that was formed in 1966 for the purpose of coordinating the activities of the various Societies for Surgery of the Hand throughout the world. The IFSSH now has 62 member countries. There is typically a triennial congress, held with the Hand Therapists, which rotates to the different regions of the globe. The 10th Meeting was held in Sydney in 2007, with Congress Chairman Roland Hicks and Scientific Chairman Michael Tonkin.

The 15th IFSSH Congress was a Hybrid meeting in London in June 2022 that included-

- 730 invited talks
- 963 submitted talks
- 545 posters
- Multiple concurrent rooms
- 4000 in-person attendees
- 600 virtual attendees from 89 countries.



**IFSSH, IFSH & FESSH COMBINED CONGRESS
LONDON 2022**

6-10 June 2022 | ExCeL, London, UK



IFSSH / International Wrist Arthroscopy Society (IWAS) session. Presentation from the Godfather of Wrist Arthroscopy, Terry Whipple, titled the "The Last Word".

Website

The IFSSH website (www.ifssh.info) provides all the important details of the IFSSH activities. This includes bylaws, history, meetings and education resources.



IFSSH website, www.ifssh.info

Grants and scholarships

The IFSSH provides financial support for the development and harmonisation of hand surgery. The details of these grants can be found on the IFSSH website.

Pioneers of Hand Surgery

The IFSSH awards "Pioneers of Hand Surgery" status to any person who excels exceptionally, beyond what is normally expected in the field of hand surgery. In London Michael Tonkin was acknowledged for his exceptional contributions to hand surgery. Other Australian hand surgeons to be given this honour include Sidney Sunderland, Benjamin Rank, Bernard O'Brien, W. Bruce Conolly, John Hueston, Timothy Herbert, Wayne Morrison and David Vickers.



FIG. 3 Bernard O'Brien
AHSS President 1978-80, IFSSH President 1979-83.

May 2022 PIONEER PROFILES

John Turner Hueston (1926-1993)



John Turner Hueston was born on 16 January 1926 in Hawthorn, Australia. After completing his initial schooling at Trinity Grammar School in Melbourne, he qualified as a doctor (MBBS) in 1948 from the Trinity College of the University of Melbourne in Australia.

John Hueston's main medical interest was Dupuytren's contracture. He published a monograph in 1964 which earned him the Hunterian professional lecture of the Royal College of Surgeons of England in the same year. He became a well-known lecturer in Europe and America, and was honoured with the Founders Lecture of the American Society for Surgery of the Hand (1969) and the McIndoe Memorial Lecture from the Royal College of Surgeons, England (1984). His numerous publications are well-known which made him the pre-eminent recognised authority on Dupuytren's in his time.

Pictures of Michael Tonkin, Pioneers report 2022; Bernie O'Brien from Hand Surgery Worldwide; John Hueston from Ezine June 2022.

Education

The IFSSH has many programs on the website that are dedicated to education, including-

- Reports from the IFSSH Scientific Committees
- Hand Surgery Resource
- Evidence Based Hand Surgery
- OMT App for the classification of Congenital Anomalies of the Hand and Upper Limb.
- Hand Surgery Worldwide – Textbook of Hand surgery
- Terminology for Hand Surgery
- Ezine - the e-magazine of IFSSH, that provides reports from the IFSSH meetings, special invited articles and updates of future meetings.

New on Hand Surgery Resource

Hand Surgery Source VERSION 4.0

- 256 diagnostic guides with ICD10 & CPT codes
- 161 exams, tests and signs
- 26 diagnostic studies
- 2,265 photos and drawings
- 177 videos
- 4,450 references and 3,457 PubMed links

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Radial Longitudinal Deficiency
I-A-2-i

Classification

- Malformations
- Abnormal axis formation/differentiation - Entire Upper Limb
- Radial-ulnar (anterior-posterior) axis

Description

Etiology

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ifssh ezine

HAND THERAPY
ADVANCED SCOPE OF
HAND THERAPY PRACTICE

TIPS AND TECHNIQUES
A SCHEME TO PROJECT THE
RADIAL NERVE ON THE HUMERUS

IFSSH, IFSHT & FESSH
COMBINED CONGRESS
LONDON 2022

MESSAGES FROM THE IFSSH EXECUTIVE | MEMBER SOCIETY NEWS

HAND SURGERY WORLDWIDE

International Reconstruction of a "Beautiful and Ready Instrument of the Mind"

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Future meetings

- 1st IFSSH Mid-Term Course in Hand Surgery - Ecuador, South America, 14-17 Feb 2024
- 16th IFSSH Congress, Washington D.C., 23-28 March 2025
- 17th IFSSH Congress, Singapore, 2028



The IFSSH is an important organisation that has a huge potential to advance hand surgery at a global level. It has been a privilege to be the IFSSH Delegate for the AHSS. I was fortunate to recently be elected as the Member at Large (Asia-Pacific), which is a position on the Executive Committee of IFSSH from 2022 -25. I'm keen to ensure that I represent the values of the AHSS and its members. Please do reach out to me, if you have any input as to how IFSSH can better serve the Hand Surgeons of Australia and the rest of the world.

Greg Bain

IFSSH Delegate for AHSS 2019 – 22

IFSSH Executive Committee, Member at Large (Asia-Pacific) 2022 -25

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AOA Diversity Strategy Meeting Report by Greg Bain



I attended this workshop as the AHSS representative.

Annette Holian, the first female President of the AOA in 75 years was the chair. A great pity was that she was unable to attend due to her having Covid. Despite obviously not being well, she attended on-line, and was a strong voice for change and inclusivity. There was a wide representation from various quarters of the AOA (Slide 3). Jenny Green was acknowledged for her leadership in the area diversity.

Karen Nicolls (AIDA representative) provided an amazing insight into the difficulties for doctors of aboriginal / Torres Strait Island heritage. She stated many aboriginal doctors felt discrimination and struggled to integrate on a daily basis. She stated many aboriginal doctors would naturally not make eye-contact, and that this was a cultural difference. This is a concern, as we often interpret eye contact as a sign of confidence or honesty. In the questionnaire 4% of AOA members identified as being of Aboriginal origin, but no-one in the room could identify a single member of aboriginal origin.

We had small group discussion, on Diversity and Inclusivity topics included;
 Challenges and Opportunities
 Ambition and success
 Short-term and long-term goals

Answers to a membership survey were presented. Each small group presented their conclusions, and the AOA staff collated a defined set of answers.

In recent times progress of Women in the community, medicine and Orthopaedic Surgery is clearly evident. Examples have included the progression of women into roles of leadership, research, governance. Examples include our AOA President, Governor General, Premiers, Health Ministers etc. Since the meeting, I received a photo of the 3 international women Orthopaedic Presidents.

Our first women President, Annette Holian, stands tall, and is a natural leader of all Orthopaedic Surgeons. It became apparent that one of the aims of the event was to change the Constitution, to allow the OWL representative on the board, to become a voting member. There had been a motion at the AGM a couple of years ago, but it was lost. There were ambitions that women should represent 30% of the executive positions.

But it was clear that further progress is required at the grass roots level, to ensure that women have the same opportunities for selection, training, and career progression. Some of the barriers identified were family and domestic commitments, traditional selection criteria, training program requirements and flexibility, need for breast feeding, discrimination and bullying. Although change is happening, discrimination continues to halt progression, and at the local level, significant barriers remain a problem for the individual.

In the discussion groups I became aware of the "Champions for change". This is a group within the AOA, that represents change for many different groups. I understand that it includes the OWLs, rural doctors, and other groups.

Another point that was briefly discussed was the difficulties of the IMGs, and that they often felt excluded. I thought they probably had a similar experience to that described for the aboriginal doctors. On reflection, I am not sure that the IMGs were represented, and certainly they did not have an obvious voice. This made me ask myself, what other groups needed to be heard. There was a brief mention of the rural doctors, but their challenges were not discussed. There was no obvious voice for those with a disability, LGBTQ, different religious groups, seniors or academics. And finally, I can't recall the increasing mental health challenges in our members, even being acknowledged.

I left the workshop, with so many more questions than I had before. I became concerned that there were so many aspects of diversity that were not included in this special historic event. But much more importantly, I felt that so many groups / individuals within the AOA, have no voice and were unlikely to ever be heard.

On reflection, I do believe that we do need a special position on the AOA board, to represent Diversity, and Inclusivity. My opinion is that the position should be held by a "Champion of change". That this person provides a true voice for ALL of our members who need our support, regardless of their sex, age, colour, religion, status, country of birth, mental health. Hopefully this voice for change, can help each of us be our best self; for ourselves, our family and our patients.

Greg Bain
Australian Hand Surgery Society

MBS Rapid Review Process - Mark Baker

As surgeons we interact with the MBS every day. Our Society has established a Section 11 Committee to assist members and enhance our relationship and engagement with the Department of Health with respect to MBS item number issues. It builds on the previous great work of our members who have assisted in the evolution of the MBS descriptors to cover the spectrum of care we provide to our patients. We are indebted to the work on the various review projects including the recent contributions of Tony Berger, Steve Coleman and Graham Gumley which cannot be overestimated. MBS changes are difficult to nudge and it would appear impossible to agitate for. Nevertheless we need engagement to lead to change and positive interpretation of data to support the outcomes our patients need. Working also with the support from the full AOA team our Committee can now be the formal avenue for ongoing interaction about MBS issues between our members and Government/Medicare. We cannot move mountains but together we can suggest better ways to sculpture the surface of the monolith that is the MBS.



Currently we are working through the consequences of the latest massive Taskforce Review Process. The agenda set for us is to focus on 2 things - correcting wording and removing confusing interpretation issues and identifying service gaps created or not solved by the changes.

After lots of preparation Jeff Ecker Mark Ross David McCombe and I prepared for a face-to-face meeting with Medicare in Canberra on Friday 22 July. After all plans were in place this meeting went ahead virtually because of concerns over the latest Covid outbreak. The meeting further enhanced open lines of communication for our members. Only minor changes have resulted so far. We have a long way to go. We have learnt that changes occur incrementally largely glued to the annual budgetary process. The new governments October budget agenda is already saturated, and we are in the queue with many others. Later we can represent other issues.

Once any Item review is handed over to the workings of the Medicare machine it is additionally processed by non-clinical government experts in finance and law and frequently modified by those processes influenced by competing government agendas. Once published in the MBS it becomes law that we need to apply to our patient care services. As we all know even minor changes in wording can have significant unintended consequences for the way we are able to use the schedule to provide care. Nevertheless, we become bound by them to act sincerely. Despite diligent clinical oversight from career doctors within Medicare their knowledge and oversight cannot be expected to be aware of the nuances of evolving patient care in every sub-specialist craft group. Hence the heightened need for formal interactions from committees such as ours. We are in a position to offer them help. The process of change is slow and comes in bursts influenced by priorities imposed largely outside our control. We need to be prepared to act with information and data whenever we are able to seize any opportunity to act on your behalf. If you encounter issues or concerns with the wording of MBS items that trouble their application to clinical care of your patients - let us know. A forum has been established on the AHSS website for discussion. Medicare also has a hotline 'ASK MBS' for asking questions. If you benefit from such interactions share their responses with us so we can reinforce the requirement for proper clarification so everyone can benefit. When you identify frustrations let us know.

Education Committee Update

Randy Bindra



2022 will end with a series of exciting face to face, mask-free meetings starting with the ASSH meeting in Boston from Sep 29 to Oct 1. Dr Ridwan Namazie and co-authors from the Gold Coast will receive the 2021 Linscheid - Dobyns excellence in wrist research award for their presentation entitled " Thermal Safety of Dry Arthroscopy of the Wrist Joint".

After a 2 year hiatus, the Australian Orthopaedic Association will hold the in-person meeting combined with the NZOA in Christchurch from Oct 30-Nov 3. The hand surgery free-paper session will be held on Monday, Oct 31. Details for the meeting can be found here: <https://nzoa.eventsair.com/nzoa-aoa-combined-asm-2022>.

The QHSS and Victorian Hand Society meet at the Gold Coast from Nov 4-6 at the Star Casino on the Gold Coast with Sanj Kakar from Mayo Clinic as the guest speaker - <https://tayloredimages.eventsair.com/2022qhss>.

NSW hand society will meet the following week from Nov 10-13 in Port Stephens with invited speaker Dr Maria Esplugas from Spain - <https://az659834.vo.msecnd.net/eventsairseasiaproduct/production-tayloredimages-public/ffbaf25ab42d49bbb1d1927d8527c7de>.

The year will finish with the combined meeting of the NZ Association of Plastic surgeons and the NZ Society for Surgery of the Hand at the intercontinental Hotel, Wellington from December 1-3, 2022. Guest speakers are Greg Bain and Tony Berger.

And of course, don't forget the AHSS annual meeting hosts the British Hand Society next March 1-4 in Sydney.





Post Fellowship Education & Training (PFET) Update - Libby Anderson & Alexa Potter



We have recently made some updates to the [AHSS Website](#) including the following new Pages within [Fellowships and Training](#):

Journal Club

Brief outline of the PFET Programmes, monthly Journal Clubs run February-November via Zoom. Available for (Non Members) to view. Also outlined on this page are links to 2022-2023 Programme/Topic List, Journal Club Meeting details including Zoom Link (Members only) and previous meeting Recordings (Members only).

PFET Trainees

This page will be continued to be updated with AHSS current PFET Trainees and their Training Centre Placements and dates. Available for (Members only) to view.



Visit the website at www.ahss.org.au

Email enquiries: education@ahss.org.au



AHSS Annual Scientific Meeting 2023 - Sydney, Australia

Planning for the 2023 annual scientific meeting of the Society in Sydney, co-convened by Sarah Tolerton and Richard Lawson, is progressing well. The conference will run from the evening of Wednesday 1st March until Saturday 4th March 2023. We are very excited to welcome our colleagues and friends from the British Society for Surgery of the Hand as the guest society for this meeting, back in the world's most spectacular harbour city. We have an exciting slate of speakers covering a wide range of topics and some wonderful social events lined up.

The primary speaker is Professor Max Haerle, a highly credentialed arthroscopist and wrist surgeon whom many will know from his efforts with the IFSSH meeting in Berlin in 2019 and his roles in EWAS. Professor Jagdeep Nanchahal will be presenting his research on the use of the anti-TNF drug adalimumab in the management of Dupuytren's disease, and Professor Charles Goldfarb will be presenting virtually on congenital hand surgery and sports injuries. Planned seminars include sports injuries, database and registry management and diversity in hand surgery. A highlight promises to be an Ashes contest between our talented young female hand surgeons and their greyer male British counterparts, taking on a parcel of difficult cases.

The conference venue is the Hyatt Regency which overlooks Darling Harbour. This will also be the site for our welcome function on Wednesday night, with a spectacular view from the Zephyr Bar. Other dinner venues include the Australian Museum, with welcome drinks amongst the dinosaurs and the final conference event involves a ferry ride to Taronga Zoo with dinner overlooking the Sydney skyline. Social activities on Friday afternoon include sailing on Sydney Harbour, the famous Bridge Climb, a beautiful bush walk from the Spit Bridge to Manly, and golf.

The first round of abstract submissions is already open, so we encourage you to consider submitting your research early and setting aside the first few days of March 2023 to join us in the Harbour City.

Find meeting information [here](#)



Upcoming Meetings

FUTURE AUSTRALIAN MEETINGS

2022	Date	Location	Guest	Convenor
AOA Knowledge Summit	22-24 June	Cairns, Qld		
AOA/NZOA Combined ASM	30 Oct -3 Nov	Christchurch, NZ		Sandip Patel
2023				
AHSS ASM (BSSH invited Society)	March 1-4	Sydney	Max Haerle	Richard Lawson Sarah Tolerton Dean Boyce (BSSH)
RACS ASC	May 1-5	Adelaide, SA		
AOA/NZOA Combined ASM	Nov 12-16	Melbourne, Vic		
2024				
AHSS/ASSH Combined ASM	May 2-5	Maui, Hawaii		Eugene Ek A(HSS) Sanj Kakar (ASSH)
AOA NSW Branch ASM NSW	July 19-20	NSW		

FUTURE INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS

2022	Date	Location
ASSH	29 Sep - 1 Oct	Boston, USA
APWA	Nov	TBD
2023		
APFSSH/APWA	31 May - 3 Jun	Singapore
FESSH	10-13 May	Rimini, Italy
ASSH	5-7 Oct	Toronto, Canada
2024		
FESSH	June 12-15	Helsinki, Finland
APWA	Nov	
ASSH	19-21 Sep	Minneapolis, USA



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Obituaries

- Benjamin Coplan Cohney

As we celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the AHSS, it is with sadness that we acknowledge the recent passing of Benjamin Cohney who was a foundation member of the Australian Hand Club in 1972. Dr Cohney was a Perth-based Plastic Surgeon who contributed to the early development of the Australian Hand Surgery community. The AHSS Board have sent our condolences to his family.