



Australian and New Zealand College of Perfusionists

27th March 2020

Dear College Members and Trainees,

At this difficult time in the world with the COVID-19 pandemic, it is important that we support each other in our community as much as we possibly can. At this stage we can all see the changing face of the pandemic as it sweeps the world and particularly our own countries and states. The changes that have occurred in the last 24 hours alone have widespread implications for all of us. There is a wealth of information available online and some links to reliable information sources are listed below.

This is a testing time for our College and we have a number of initiatives that will be impacted by the situation we are now in. Forward planning has become something that realistically can only be done on a daily and weekly basis; long term planning is no longer a realistic possibility. In our small community the impact of these changes will be large. We have seen our corporate partner Medtronic having to cancel their Simulation workshop in March and are unable to say when these will resume, and similarly all of the companies with which we work are changing the way they do face to face business in this time. I would urge all of you to recognise the very trying time it is for industry as they try and maintain the supply lines that allow cardiac surgery to be performed and remain functional.

In these uncertain times the planning for the College ASM is under consideration by the Executive and no decision on the meeting has been made at this time, however this remains under review. Today Perfusion Downunder announced that their 2020 Winter Meeting has been cancelled.

On a positive note, we were lucky that our students who had completed the Structured Course in Perfusion were able to undertake the ABCP examinations a couple of weeks ago. The ABCP has not as yet made any decisions concerning the next round of ABCP examinations planned for later in the year but they will be working to minimise any disruptions to the students planning to be examined later in the year.

We have other initiatives occurring for the first time this year including the first year of Annual Recertification and I thank all of those that have recertified early and encourage everyone to complete their submissions on time. Consideration may need to be given next year for non-clinical points given the impact of travel restrictions. Our work to unite our profession through the Overseas Trained Perfusionist Certification Recognition program will keep moving forward, and again I ask that if you are submitting your material for assessment please continue to do this and we will work towards achieving our goals with the program.

The College has limited resources to help at the coal face however we will try and provide information as you the membership share it with us. We will limit our provision of resources to government agencies from both the Australian and New Zealand Governments, WHO and ELSO, hopefully if nothing else this will save people time in looking for such information.



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Australian and New Zealand Intensive Care Society

<https://www.anzics.com.au/coronavirus/>

Australian Society of Anaesthetists

<https://asa.org.au/covid-19-updates/>

World Health Organisation

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/technical-guidance>

Extracorporeal Life Support Organisation

<https://www.elseo.org>

<https://ecmoed.blog/2020/01/27/ecmo-in-novel-coronavirus-ncov-infection/>

We have recently changed the provider of our college website www.anzcp.org, soon there will be visible signs of change on the public face of the website. I hope we will be able to develop a communication portal to help us all keep track of how we tackle the challenges in the months ahead.

On behalf of the College Executive, I wish you, your families and your colleagues' safe passage through this crisis in the knowledge that we will all continue to give our patients the care, consideration, time and commitment that they need in these uncertain times.

Working together,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rob Baker". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined.

Rob Baker

President

Australian and New Zealand College of Perfusionists