



Australian and New Zealand College of Perfusionists

6th July 2020

Open Letter to All Perfusionists in regard of Training in our Region.

The Executive of the College and the members of the Australasian Board of Cardiovascular Perfusion (ABCP) would like to share an update on the progress of developing a sustainable training program in our region. As you are aware, the current Structured Course in Clinical Perfusion (SCiCP) run by the ABCP allows trainees to fulfil the academic requirements to gain certification in our region. The College and the Board have sought for many years to have our educational component return to the University sector for people wishing to enter Perfusion as a career.

Swinburne University offered the Master's in Perfusion Course from 2005-2011, however due to the small number of students and the associated costs with running the course, the university chose not to continue to offer the course. To date, the Australian and New Zealand Universities whom we have approached have been reticent to begin the process of developing a course for the similar reasons, primarily the forecast small number of graduates that go through such a program annually. This has led the ABCP to look at alternative approaches to finding a University to host an appropriate Master's course in Perfusion for our Australian and New Zealand trainees. After looking at a number of possible groups, we have begun discussions with the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC). MUSC has been involved in providing a high level of perfusion education for over 40 years with a successful Master's in Perfusion course. We are currently in discussion with MUSC in developing a Master's program designed for distance learners, which would meet the academic requirement for Certification in our region. Coupled with Australian and New Zealand centres meeting specified ABCP training standards, this would allow us to produce Perfusionists at a Master's level qualification.

Many of you would have had the opportunity to meet David Fitzgerald at the ASM in Adelaide in 2018. David, who is the Division Director for Cardiovascular Perfusion at MUSC and is leading a team that are working to establish an MSc in Cardiovascular Perfusion program for distance learners which is set to begin in the second half of 2021. There are a number of questions that have been raised by our members about such a program, which we would like to address to the best of our current knowledge.



What is the likely cost? We expect the cost for the total course will be approximately US\$35,000 over two years.

Do students have to attend MUSC? No, the didactic component will be via online learning. We plan to partner locally to offer ABCP simulation, whilst the third component, local training occurs at the trainee's institution.

How long will the course take? We are envisaging 2 years part time.

What happens if I already have started the College course? Depending on how far into the course students are will impact what they may want to do. We envisage that every student enrolled in the SCiCP course prior to a graduate program becoming available will have the opportunity to complete the SCiCP program. However if they wish to enrol in the graduate course all fees paid to the ABCP will be refunded.

Will I get credits for SCiCP courses in a MUSC program? No.

What are the academic requirements for entry into a Master's Program at MUSC? Like all University programs MUSC has clear entry requirements. The current MUSC requirements for their on-site course are posted at <https://education.musc.edu/admissions/ready-to-apply/apply-now/ms-cardiovascular-perfusion>. We are working with MUSC to clarify how the Grade Point Average (GPA), and pre-requisite subjects will align to undergraduate degrees in our region. A US GPA of 3.0 is a requirement of the course. This translates to a GPA of 5.0 for Australian universities and a GPA of 4.0 for New Zealand Universities.

Can I get credit if I am a current practicing perfusionist, certified by the ABCP, and wish to undertake the Master's course? No. MUSC has designed a specific course for perfusionists with undergraduate qualifications who would like to complete a Master's level degree. Details can be seen on the MUSC website.

Will simulation be part of the course? Simulation has been a big part of the onsite MUSC program. We plan to run some simulation programs through the ABCP to help trainees locally, and we are aware that there are new technologies being developed which may enable simulation to be part of the course supported by MUSC. This is a space that is changing rapidly.

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted our progress working with MUSC to develop our program; however it has also had positive effects, including increasing the experience MUSC has had both in developing and using remote learning methodologies. We are striving to develop this opportunity, and if you or your colleagues have any questions, feel free to email us at admin@anzcp.org as we endeavour to keep everyone informed, moving forward with this goal.



On behalf of the Executive of the ANZCP, and the ABCP we thank you for your ongoing support of Education in our region and hope that we can collectively be successful in providing this educational opportunity.

Yours faithfully,

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