Trip Funded by: College of Surgeons Travelling Fellowship Fund
Attended by: A/Prof Low Yin Peng
Reported by: A/Prof Low Yin Peng

Trip Report
At the invitation of the President of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons, I represented the President, College of Surgeons, Singapore in participating in the ceremonial, social, consultative and scientific sessions.

Soon after my arrival in Christchurch on 6 May 2007, I joined the dignitaries, delegates and new Fellows in the Opening Ceremony, Convocation and the Syme Oration in the afternoon at the Christchurch Town Hall which adjoins the Christchurch Convention Centre where the scientific meetings were held. It was a black-tie, academic gown and decorations affair. The ceremony was characterized by interesting Maori rituals throughout. A welcome cocktail followed the day’s proceedings.

On 7 May 2007, I attended some medico-legal sessions.

Early on Tuesday, 8 May 2007 at 0700 hrs, I participated in the Presidential Roundtable Breakfast Meeting. It was a discussion between Presidents of overseas Colleges and senior RACS Office Bearers at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. The Chairman was Dr Russell Stitz, President of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons.

The participants were:
Dr Kang Wee Chang – Censor, Academy of Medicine of Malaysia
Dr Edward M Copeland III – President, American College of Surgeons
Dr Isamu Koyama – President-Elect, Japanese College of Surgeons
Dr Samuel Kwok – President, College of Surgeons of Hong Kong
A/Prof Low Yin Peng – Chairman, Chapter of Orthopaedic Surgeons, College of Surgeons, Singapore
Dr Lum Siew Kheong – Senior Vice-President, College of Surgeons, Malaysia
Prof Abdul Sattar Memon – Councillor, College of Surgeons & Physicians, Pakistan
Mr John Orr – President, Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh
Prof Gerald O’Sullivan – President, College of Surgeons, Ireland
Prof Aryono Pusponegoro – President, Indonesian College of Surgeons
Prof Brian Rowlands – President, Association of Surgeons of Great Britain & Ireland
Prof Grace Tang – President, Hong Kong Academy of Medicine
Dr Vithya Vathanophas – President, Royal College of Surgeons of Thailand
Maj Gen Nopadal Wora-Urie – Vice-President, Royal College of Surgeons of Thailand

The RACS office bearers in attendance were:
Prof Stephen Dean – Vice-President, RACS
Prof Ian Gough – Censor-in-Chief, RACS (Vice-President Elect)
Dr Andrew Sutherland – Honorary Treasurer, RACS (President Elect)
Dr David Hillis – Chief Executive Officer, RACS
Mr Ian Civil – Chair, Board of Basic Surgical Training
Dr Rob Black – Chair, Court of Examiners, RACS
Mr Ian Dickinson – Chair, Professional Development & Standards
The Agenda consisted of:
Progress of the RACS Surgical Education & Training Programme
Collaborative Surgical Administration & Training Initiatives in Asia
Sharing of Intellectual Property & Web Access to Training Materials
Workforce Issues for Discussion
Presidential Updates

In the evening of 8 May 2007, the above delegates were invited to attend the President’s private dinner at the Sign of the Takahe (a historic building of national importance). There we mingled informally with the RACS office bearers and their wives in a convivial atmosphere.

The Congress Banquet was held in the evening of 9 May 2007 at the Air Force Museum. It was a black-tie affair evening. There were fewer speeches. We had our dinner and wine in the Museum among vintage aircraft. There was sound simulation of old aircraft taking off and landing.

**Usefulness of Event to Self & College of Surgeons**

My trip to Christchurch has enabled the College of Surgeons, Singapore to establish relationship with the Australasian College and the sister colleges in the English-speaking world as well as those in Asia. This may broaden into closer co-operation and even the two-way sharing of intellectual property and web access of training material. On a personal level, I have re-established contact with orthopaedic surgeons from Adelaide whom I met some thirty years ago!