

Australian and New Zealand Society for Vascular Surgery (ANZSVS)

The ANZSVS continues to benefit from our association with the WFVS. The ANZSVS Executive Committee is moving forward to socialise the Global Vascular Companionship Program devised and conceived by Dr Iman Bayat, the ANZSVS representative on World Federation Council.

We look forward to working with the WFVS on this project and to provide administrative support for this initiative. The program seeks to develop a global vascular companionship that introduces and connects established vascular units with developing vascular units and to provide the knowledge transfer that we know benefit our patients on a global platform provided by the WFVS.

The ANZSVS has focused on workforce distribution in regional and remote communities in Australia and in New Zealand-an evolving challenge made worse by the impact on international medical graduate vascular surgeons who have contributed to workforce in these areas. The Executive Committee recently endorsed a report outlining achievable and sustainable vascular service in a hybrid virtual model with one of our regional centres. Understanding the need for support in regional centres does not take away from acknowledging the valuable work provided in regional centres by vascular surgeons to have dedicated their lives to service these communities.

In collaboration with our near neighbours, we work with the Vascular Society of New Zealand to better understand the workforce challenges and continue to develop actionable strategies to address this impending shortage of vascular surgeons across Aotearoa New Zealand. Equitable access to the bi-national training scheme and facilitating international medical graduates to engage with the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons Specialist International Medical Graduates conversion process are a couple of options being considered.

Our regular webinar series have allowed us to engage with international colleagues on topics such as physician modified fenestrated stent grafts, deep venous arterialisation as a last-ditch option for the desert foot and understanding the role of shockwave lithotripsy in calcified arteries are some of the topics that we have been discussing on these webinars.

Social media presence with the development of topic specific WhatsApp chat groups have proven to be both controversial and popular! It certainly has increased the discussion between membership and provided us with another avenue to share information and knowledge.

As we prepare for a change in our Executive Committee at the Annual Scientific Meeting in picturesque Hobart, Tasmania in October, we look forward to engaging with many of our international colleagues through their physical attendance and the virtual forums provided by the WFVS.