Royal Australasian
College of Surgeons

RACS member benefits guide 2026

Everything you need to make the most of your RACS membership

Welcome message from the president

Hello, kia ora and welcome.

This is your guide to making the most of your membership.

With over 98 years of history, RACS is more than a College. It's integral to surgeons' identity, as the shared voice, values, and vision of the nine surgical specialties that make up our proud profession. Together we uphold the highest standards of surgical care, represent our members with government and the community, and provide the education, networks, and support that help us thrive as individual surgeons and a united profession across Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand.

Through your RACS membership, we build a stronger surgical profession, advancing patient safety, surgical and ethical standards, and workforce advocacy; the foundation of the professional recognition you rely on every day.

This booklet is designed to help you unlock these benefits. Whether it's staying on track with your CPD or finding new opportunities to earn hours across the breadth of the 10 professional competencies; building networks and collaborating with colleagues; or accessing education and learning resources, there are practical ways here to make your membership work harder for you.

You'll also find tools to support your professional presence and career, from the FRACS branding kit and 'Find a Surgeon' directory (helping patients connect with you), to Surgical Vacancies when you're seeking out your next role.

And don't forget the resources unique to RACS, including our unparalleled Library services, and publications like the 'ANZ Journal of Surgery', read and respected by surgeons worldwide.

RACS matters because surgery matters. And your engagement makes all the difference. The more you use, connect, and contribute, the more value you'll gain from your membership.

Thank you for being part of the College. I encourage you to dive in, take advantage of what's on offer and make your RACS membership work for you.

Professor Owen Ung, FRACS
President, RACS

Getting started ...

Whether you're a newly minted Fellow or have been with the College for years, make sure you've set yourself up with the basics and keep them up-to-date.

1. Check your login details

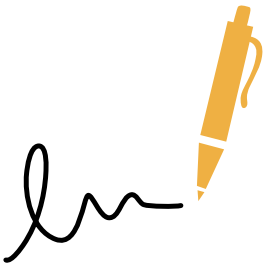
Make sure you know your RACS username and password.
These enable you to log in to the member portal so you can register for events, access the RACS library, pay your membership fees, view your course certificates and committee memberships, and more.

Need help? Visit our website or contact us on +61 3 9276 7417/ service.desk@surgeons.org.

2. Update your details

Confirm your personal and contact information, add qualifications and tell us your areas of practice and interest, communications preferences and more.
Accurate details help us keep you connected with opportunities, events, and College updates relevant to you.

Update your details: Log in to the member portal, navigate to eHub and select My Profile.



3. Download your FRACS branding

You've earned the FRACS post-nominal. Use it as your mark of distinction.
The FRACS branding page includes logos, templates and a guide to correct usage for email signatures, office signage, stationery and website design.

Access it: Log in via this page.

Getting started ...

4. Check your 'Find a Surgeon' profile

Ensure your listing is up to date so patients can find you.
The 'Find a Surgeon' page is our second most visited webpage, with around 10,000 visitors a month. This trusted directory lists only current FRACS who meet CPD requirements.
Add, review or edit your listing: Follow our step-by-step instructions.

5. Download the RACS CPD app

The easiest way to manage your CPD.
The app makes it easy to log activities, track your progress, and stay on top of your requirements.
Download it: Search 'RACS CPD' in your app store and log in with your RACS username and password.

6. Join a section or interest group

Connect with peers who share your special area of focus.
Sections and interest groups are where collaboration, mentorship, leadership and advocacy begin.
Explore groups: Visit the RACS website to find one that matches your interests and get involved today.

Now you're ready...

Once these basics are in place, you're in the best position to explore the full range of benefits, services and opportunities your RACS membership provides.

Member benefits at a glance

Your RACS membership gives you access to a wide range of tools, networks and opportunities designed to support you as a surgeon — in practice, in leadership and across your career.
The more you use your membership, the more value you'll uncover, for yourself, your practice and the profession.
For full details visit the member benefits page of our website.

Recognition and belonging

Your FRACS postnominal represents excellence — a symbol of professionalism and trust recognised around the world and the five letters that link you to the largest network of surgeons in Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand.

Professional development

Keep your skills sharp and your knowledge current with CPD tools, courses and webinars, scholarships, and leadership programs.

Advocacy and representation

RACS is your professional voice, shaping policy, surgical standards and workforce planning across Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand.

Tools and resources

Make the most of our member-only Library, the 'Find a Surgeon' directory, 'Surgical Vacancies', and practical resources like the FRACS branding kit.

Community and connection

Join a section, interest group or committee or attend a RACS event and engage with other surgeons and healthcare professionals to collaborate, connect and lead.

Support and wellbeing

Access confidential counselling, peer support and wellbeing resources tailored to the surgical profession. Experiencing financial or personal hardship? RACS offers alternative payment plans, fee-deadline extensions, and other support provisions.

CPD

Practical tips for continuous learning

RACS Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Program has been developed to closely align with the Medical Board of Australia (MBA) CPD registration standard and recertification requirements set by Te Kaunihera Rata o Aotearoa - Medical Council of New Zealand (MCNZ).

The program supports your professional growth across all nine specialties at every stage of your career. And best of all, we've made it easy for you to achieve your required CPD hours, offering a variety of programs, from in-person events to webinars and online courses, and consistently deliver activities tailored for you.

Here are some of the ways our members earn CPD hours:

- surgical audits
- peer reviews
- online learning modules
- scientific meetings and webinars
- cultural safety and leadership training.

Did you know?

RACS delivers around 60 CPD activities a year. These include speciality sessions, general wellbeing, local meetings, peer reviews and more. We pride ourselves on delivering quality RACS professional development offerings that make it easy for you to complete your CPD, with something for everyone at every stage of their career.

Managing your CPD with RACS:

1. Download the RACS CPD mobile app. The app is your quick and easy way to:
    - log activities instantly
    - upload supporting documents
    - monitor your progress in real time.
2. CPD runs on a calendar year. Avoid the end of year rush:
    - plan early
    - set quarterly goals
    - schedule time monthly to log activities or use the CPD app to upload as you go
    - use the CPD dashboard to check your progress
    - get your submissions in by 28 February of the following year to stay compliant.
3. Resolve any issues early. Our CPD team are here to help. Get in touch at cpd.college@surgeons.org or call +61 3 9249 1282.

Get involved:

- Look out for CPD opportunities in our communications.
- Bookmark the RACS Calendar of Events. Using the filters, you can find an activity in your local area or online to meet your professional development goals and CPD requirements.

Education & ongoing learning

Did you know?

We run around 70 online courses for Fellows a year, including three that are available all year round and accessible anytime:

- Identifying and Addressing Microaggressions
- Introduction to Operating with Respect
- Women in Surgery Microlearning.

RACS' Professional Development Program activities are Continuing Professional Development (CPD) accredited and incorporate one or more of the RACS competencies. No matter what stage you're at in your surgical career, there's something to help you grow — with topics that matter, from surgical skills such as robot-assisted surgery to professional skills like cultural competence.

Our PD Program covers:

- collaboration and teamwork
- communication
- cultural competence and cultural safety
- health advocacy
- judgement and clinical decision making
- leadership and management
- professionalism
- scholarship and teaching.

The Academy of Surgical Educators reported a new record in attendance in 2025 for the webinar 'The Future of AI in Surgery'. AI is an area of great interest to surgical educators and further sessions on the topic are coming soon.

Get involved:

- Enrol in an upcoming course and webinar. Find learning that fits your interests and stage of career.
- Share your expertise by joining the Academy of Surgical Educators or nominating to present at an Educator Studio Session.
- Listen to one of our Academy-recommended podcasts.

Advocacy & representation

Representing you, advancing surgery

150+

number of consultations and submissions RACS submits annually

90

position papers and guidelines helping surgeons navigate complex professional decisions while giving the public, hospitals, and governments confidence in the standards our members uphold every day

19

cross-specialty sections and interest groups

9

local committees representing the voice of surgeons in the states, territories and Aotearoa New Zealand

RACS advocates for surgeons and their patients across Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand, shaping policy, setting standards, and ensuring surgery has a strong, credible voice in government and the community.

From patient safety and workforce planning to sustainability and equity in healthcare, our advocacy influences real-world decisions that affect how you practice. One example is the continued reforms in Australia to protect the title 'surgeon', something RACS has spent a decade advocating for. Our advocacy has contributed to the introduction of a 2023 National Law, which reserves the title for those who have undertaken accredited surgical training, and more recently, to a change in title for so-called podiatric surgeons to 'surgical podiatrists'.

See our other recent advocacy highlights.

Get involved:

- Join a committee, section or interest group, or nominate yourself for Council at election time every October/November.
- Stay informed through College updates and position papers and add your voice when we call for feedback. Consultation callouts are usually made via the fortnightly 'Fax Mentis' newsletter or emails to members.

Community & networking

A strong community builds a strong profession

Your RACS membership connects you to the 10,000+ strong surgical community across Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand; a network built on shared experience, collaboration and lifelong learning.

Our flagship event, the Annual Scientific Congress (ASC), brings together surgeons from all nine surgical specialties to exchange ideas, explore innovation and strengthen professional connections. The largest English-language surgical conference in the southern hemisphere, it's an unparalleled opportunity to learn, present, and be part of the conversation shaping the future of surgery.

Closer to home, our local RACS offices welcome members year-round. Local meetings, section events and committee activities help you stay connected throughout the year. Whether it's attending your local Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM), sharing research at the Annual Research Conference or buying a table at a charity ball, every interaction strengthens your professional network and builds a stronger surgical community.

Get involved:

- Register to attend the ASC and connect with peers from across specialties and around the world.
- Bookmark the College Calendar of Events and find out what's on near you.
- Pop in to your local RACS office. Many of our offices provide free venue hire to members for meetings and events.

Recognition & professional identity

Your RACS membership is about more than just belonging. It's about excellence, the trust patients and communities place in you as a FRACS, and the contribution you make to a profession that advances through the shared commitment of its Fellows.

Fellow of the Royal Australasian
College of Surgeons

The FRACS post-nominal is reserved for exclusive use by Fellows of the College. It is the mark of a surgeon who has reached the highest standard — proven skill, years of rigorous training and a commitment to ongoing excellence. It is the promise that every patient is in safe hands, and the assurance for hospitals and providers that accredited surgeons stand together —a community united by trust, care and the same unwavering standard.

Get involved:

- Display your FRACS post-nominal on your stationery, signage and website. It reflects your professional standing and our shared commitment to excellence.

Recognition & professional identity

RACS members also help shape the future of surgery, through teaching, mentoring, examining and research, and by taking part in our Global Health initiatives that support equitable surgical care in the Indo–Pacific region.

Every contribution helps build a stronger surgical community — one that leads by example, supports its members, and advances surgical care for all.

Each year, RACS offers around $1.6 million in scholarship and grants, and has an extensive awards program, to recognise excellence, support research and encourage innovation across every career stage. Whether you're pursuing new knowledge, sharing your expertise, or contributing to the profession through leadership and service, there are opportunities to grow, lead and contribute.

Get involved:

- Apply for a scholarship or grant. Funding rounds open throughout the year.
- Nominate a colleague for an award or medal. Celebrate those advancing the profession.
- Volunteer your expertise as an examiner, supervisor, committee member, mentor or Global Health participant.
- Support the Foundation for Surgery — your donation helps fund life-changing research and education, Younger Fellows initiatives, and Indigenous health and Global Health programs that improve access to safe surgery across our region.

RACS delivers the second largest program of surgical scholarships and grants in the world through the Foundation for Surgery.
The Foundation offers 60 scholarships and grants in total.

Tools & resources

Tools and resources to keep you sharp

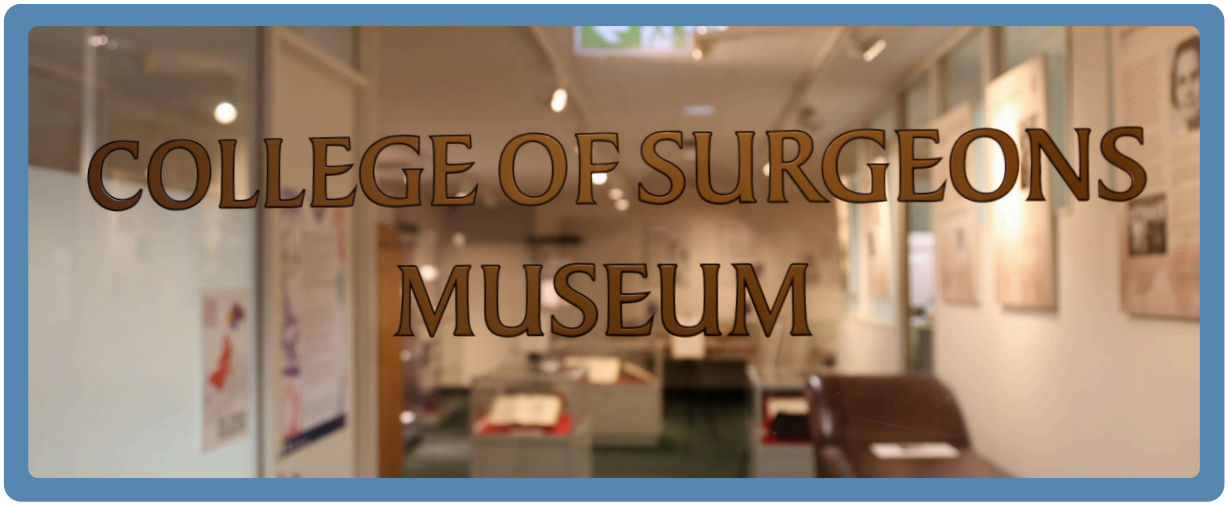
Your RACS membership gives you exclusive access to an extraordinary range of professional tools, helping you stay informed, connected and supported throughout your surgical career.

Looking for your next career opportunity? Visit 'Surgical Vacancies' and see up-to-date listings of positions across Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand. Whether you're exploring a new role, considering relocation, or looking for short-term opportunities, this resource helps you connect with employers and plan the next step in your career.

The online member portal gives you easy access to the resources you need most. From downloading course certificates, event transcripts and eLearning records, to tracking committee memberships, registering for events, donating to the Foundation and paying fees, the member portal puts control of your membership in your hands. Just click "sign in" in the top right corner of the RACS homepage. It's a simple, secure way to manage your professional record and make the most of your RACS membership.

Get involved:

- Immerse yourself in RACS' rich history by visiting the museum and archives collections online.
- Bookmark 'Surgical Vacancies' and find opportunities to advance your career.
- Contribute an article or perspective piece to 'Surgical News' or submit a research paper to the 'ANZ Journal of Surgery'. Share your knowledge and be part of the conversation.



Tools & resources

Kirsten Burkitt, Manager, Library and Electronic Services

The RACS Library is your gateway to world-class research and clinical information. From full-text access to major medical databases and journals, to expert librarian support for literature searches and research projects, it is an unparalleled resource for anyone pursuing evidence-based excellence.

You'll also receive key RACS publications, including the 'ANZ Journal of Surgery', our internationally-regarded, peer-reviewed academic journal; 'Surgical News', a bi-monthly long-reads member e-magazine; and 'Fax Mentis', your link to College updates and alerts. Together, they keep you in touch with the profession and the people driving it forward.

Get involved:

- Explore the RACS Library and make the most of its databases and e-resources.

The Library in numbers:*

40k
website visits

3500+
member requests fulfilled

219,000
journal articles downloaded

52,000
book chapters downloaded

*Figures from 2024

Wellbeing & support services

Caring for you, caring for patients

Surgical careers bring many pressures and staying ahead professionally while maintaining a full personal life can be a tough balancing act. RACS recognises that sustaining your wellbeing is essential if you're going to serve patients and the profession at your best.

Through the RACS Support Program, in partnership with Converge International, we provide members and their immediate family with access to free, confidential counselling and support for up to four sessions a year. Services are available via phone, online and face-to-face.

RACS supports a culture of peer support, mentoring, and has a commitment to wellbeing, underpinned by the Wellbeing Charter for Doctors and RACS' own Wellbeing Action Plan.

We also recognise that at times members may face personal or financial hardship. RACS offers hardship provisions including alternative payment plans, fee-deadline extensions, and special consideration in relation to education, training or policy obligations.

Wellbeing checklist

Surgeons are trained to put their patients first and often, that means they don't take the same care of themselves. This checklist is a practical reminder that looking after yourself is essential both for your own health and to provide the best care to others.

Look after the basics

- Protect rest and recovery time where possible.
- Schedule exercise or outdoor time.
- Eat regularly, hydrate, and take leave.

Stay connected

- Build a circle of trusted peers — colleagues who understand the pressures of surgery who you can go to for support and understanding.

Reflect and reset

- Debrief after challenging cases with peers or mentors.
- Practise short moments of mindfulness or grounding during the day.
- Review your workload and boundaries regularly with your team or supervisor.

Give back

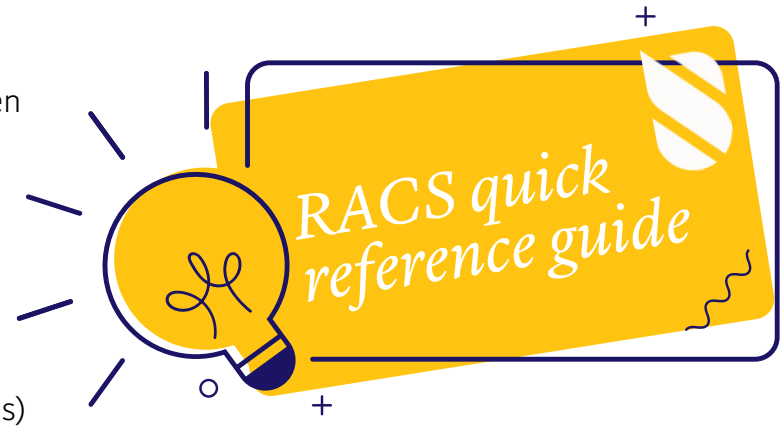
- Mentoring or teaching can restore professional satisfaction and perspective.
- Contribute to RACS wellbeing initiatives. Helping others supports your own sense of purpose.

Use support early

- Contact the RACS Support Program for free, confidential counselling.

Quick reference page

Annual calendar highlights



January–March

- CPD compliance reminders
- Scholarships and grants applications open

April–June

- Annual Scientific Congress (ASC)
- Younger Fellows Forum
- Foundation gala
- RACS Annual General Meeting

July-September

- Regional Annual Scientific Meetings (ASMs)

October-December

- Council elections
- Skills courses open for enrolment
- CPD verification notifications and first reminder notices
- Annual member renewal notices

Key contacts

IT Helpdesk

service.desk@surgeons.org - password resets, account information and support logging into the member portal.

Fellowship Services

fellowship@surgeons.org — general enquiries, updates to your details, fees.

CPD Team

cpd.college@surgeons.org — CPD requirements, tracking, and audit support.

Wellbeing and support

eap@convergeintl.com.au — free, confidential counselling and peer support.

john.quinn@surgeons.org – Executive Director of Surgical Affairs, Australia.

sarah.rennie@surgeons.org – Surgical Advisor, Aotearoa New Zealand.

Scholarships & Grants

scholarships@surgeons.org — enquiries about the scholarships and grants program.

Foundation for Surgery

foundation@surgeons.org – enquiries or to make a donation to RACS' charitable arm

Global Health

global.health@surgeons.org — volunteer opportunities across the Indo-Pacific.

Annual Scientific Congress

asc.registration@surgeons.org — ASC enquiries.

Publications and media

RACS.communications@surgeons.org — contribute a story or give us feedback on our communications and publications.

Library

college.library@surgeons.org — research support, database access, and document delivery.

Local support

Navigate to the contacts page of your local RACS office.