



INTRODUCTION TO SET: THE NEW SURGICAL TRAINING PROGRAM

On 5 September, the Student Surgical Society of the Austin launched its inaugural event with the much anticipated information evening on the subject of the new Surgical Education and Training (SET) program developed by the Royal Australian College of Surgeons (RACS).

We were honoured to have Professor John Collins, Dean of Education at the RACS, as our keynote speaker for the evening. Professor Collins has been instrumental in establishing the SET program, an initiative that will replace the current Basic Surgical Training and Specialist Surgical Training from January 2008 onwards.

During the evening, Professor Collins highlighted the rationale behind the decision to move to a streamlined SET program. Along with the revisions in the program curriculum, he also discussed the changes in program application and selection. These changes will have considerable impact on the decisions medical students make in determining a suitable career path.

For most students approaching the start of their internship, the issues of career, family and lifestyle begin to come to the forefront. Compared to graduates of twenty years ago, the medical profession has evolved such that young doctors today are required to make an earlier decision on their postgraduate training path. Surgical or otherwise, any information that can help to decide is invaluable.

This thirst for knowledge was reflected in the lively Q&A session that followed Professor Collin's speech. Feedback from the evening has been overwhelmingly positive. Many expressed their delight in finally having the opportunity to address the rumours that have been circulating amongst students and junior HMOs with regards to the SET program.

For more information on the SET program, we encourage you to visit the RACS website at:

<http://www.surgeons.org>

The Student Surgical Society of the Austin would like to thank Professor Collins and our patron Professor Christophi for their generous time and support of our activities. It has been an exciting first semester for us, and we hope to continue providing students the opportunity to explore the many facets surgery has to offer.

Mali Okada

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