

2024

GSA

ASM

# Critical Incisions!

A desert landscape with a large, dark, splattered shape resembling a bloodstain or ink blot in the sky, with red liquid dripping down from it. The background is a clear blue sky with some light clouds. The foreground shows a brown, rocky desert terrain with a prominent, layered rock formation in the middle ground.

**NAVIGATING TRAUMA & EMERGENCY  
SURGERY IN THE NEW WORLD**

**17 – 20 OCTOBER, 2024  
ADELAIDE CONVENTION CENTRE**



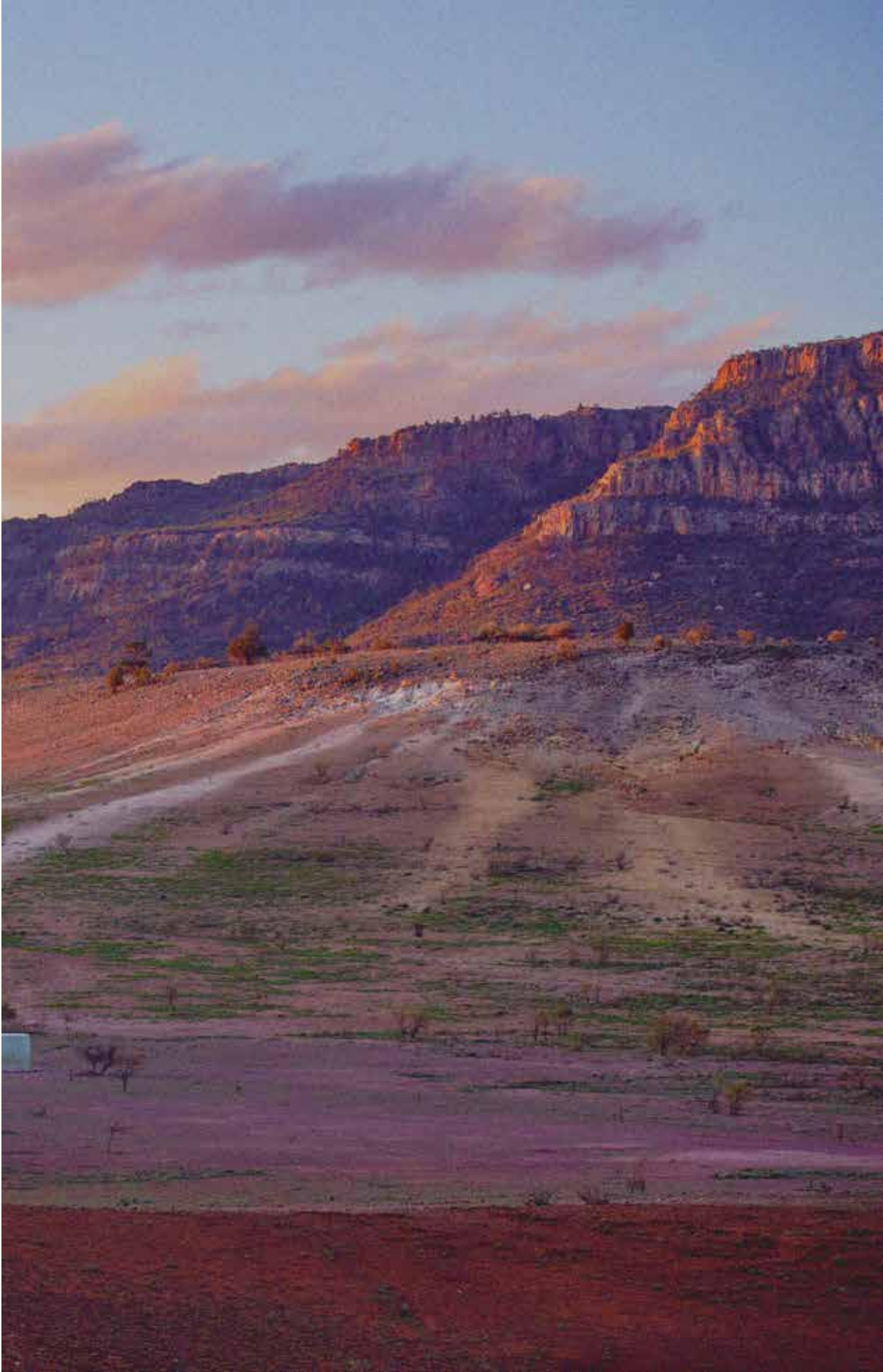
**2024**

**GSA**

**ASM**

FRIDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> - SUNDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER, 2024

ADELAIDE CONVENTION CENTRE





# DEAR COLLEAGUES.

We are delighted to extend our warmest invitation to you to join us for the highly anticipated 2024 GSA Annual Scientific Meeting, taking place in the beautiful city of Adelaide from 17-20 October, 2024.

With a theme of '**CRITICAL INCISIONS!** *Navigating Trauma and Emergency Surgery in the New World*', the Scientific Program promises to explore advancements, modern approaches and innovation, as well as spotlight controversies across key areas of TRAUMA AND EMERGENCY GENERAL SURGERY. An extraordinary gathering of experts and enthusiasts from across Australia and internationally including our International Keynote Speaker - renowned surgeon **Prof Beat Schnüriger** - *Head of Visceral Acute Care Surgery, University Hospital Bern, Switzerland*, will share their extensive expertise, practical knowledge and personal insights - delivering a unique balance of modern and practical approaches along with 'real world experiences'.

We hope that after three days of motivating and informative talks, discussions and collaboration, that you will leave feeling inspired and confident to take your expertise to the next level, armed with the tools to tackle difficult clinical challenges - forging meaningful connections, and driving progress within the realm of emergency and trauma general surgery.

We look forward to welcoming you to Adelaide this October.

Yours sincerely,

THE ORGANISING COMMITTEE

DR GAYATRI  
ASOKAN FRACS

DR MARKUS  
TROCHSLER FRACS

PROF MATTHIAS  
WICHMANN FRACS

# ***THE ORGANISING COMMITTEE.***

## *Dr Gayatri Asokan FRACS*

*GENERAL SURGICAL FELLOW – FLINDERS MEDICAL  
CENTRE, ADELAIDE*

Dr Gayatri Asokan is a General Surgical Fellow currently completing a fellowship year in Hepatobiliary Surgery at Flinders Medical Centre. She has completed a Masters in Minimally Invasive Surgery at the University of Adelaide.

She is a RACS Younger Fellows committee member, a RACS clinical examinations committee member and is also involved in the GSA national Fellowship Exam Teaching Program.

Teaching is an important part of Gayatri's surgical career. She is a clinical lecturer in Surgery at the University of Adelaide and an anatomy tutor for the Flinders University Surgical Society. She has been involved in educational podcasts and has done a voice over for an online resource for patient education on PIPAC.

Gayatri plans on continuing her role in teaching within the university and in co-ordinating the educational program for the General Surgical SET / GSET trainees in South Australia.

Her long-term goals include continuing her career path in General Surgery with an interest in Hepatobiliary Surgery.

# THE ORGANISING COMMITTEE.



## *Dr Markus Trochsler FRACS*

*SPECIALIST GENERAL & UPPER GI / HPB SURGEON – QUEEN ELIZABETH HOSPITAL & ROYAL ADELAIDE HOSPITAL*

Dr Markus Trochsler was born and educated in Switzerland. After gaining specialist recognition in General Surgery in Switzerland (FMH) and Australia (FRACS), Markus pursued subspecialty training in oesophago-gastric and hepato-biliary surgery in Adelaide. During this time, he completed a Master in Minimally Invasive Surgery at the University of Adelaide.

Markus has appointments as specialist surgeon at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and Royal Adelaide Hospital. He is also a visiting specialist at the Whyalla and Port Augusta Hospital.

Since 2018, Markus is the Head of the Upper Gastrointestinal and Hepatobiliary Unit at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital (Upper GI and HPB). As Director of Surgical Training he led the education of the next generation of surgical specialist over many years.

A Senior Lecturer in Surgery at the University of Adelaide, he is actively involved in research and teaching of undergraduate and postgraduate students. In his academic career Markus has written many book chapters, published in excess of thirty research publications and has attracted competitive research grants of more than \$5m. His research interest is focused on postoperative adhesion formation and outcome analysis after liver surgery.

Markus' professional expertise is in general surgery (open and minimal invasive), bariatric surgery, liver surgery, oesophago-gastric surgery and peritoneal surface cancer surgery (HIPEC and PIPAC). In 2020, he performed the first PIPAC procedure for gastric cancer in Australia.

# THE ORGANISING COMMITTEE.



## *Prof Matthias Wichmann FRACS*

*CONSULTANT GENERAL SURGEON - MT GAMBIER, SA, PROFESSOR - UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE AND FLINDERS UNIVERSITY*

Prof Matthias Wichmann is a General Surgeon with sub-specialist interest in Emergency, Rural, Colorectal and Minimally Invasive Surgery, based in Mt. Gambier, South Australia.

Matthias completed his surgical training in general and visceral surgery at the University of Munich and Bavarian Chamber of Medicine, Germany in 2002 before moving to Australia and receiving his FRACS in 2007. He has been a Consultant General Surgeon at Mt Gambier General Hospital since 2006.

Prior to moving to Australia, he completed two years of research in the US - at Michigan State University and Brown University. His research interests include colorectal and emergency surgery; and surgical interests of gastrointestinal and colorectal surgery, minimal invasive surgery, and endoscopy. He has published more than 80 original papers and book chapters, and is co-editor of four surgical textbooks

He is an active member of the Board of Directors for General Surgeons Australia.

He is married with three adult children.





**2024**

**GSA**

**ASM**

# THE IMPORTANT DETAILS.

## VENUE

The Trainees' Day, Annual Scientific Meeting, and Exhibition will be held at the following venue:

ADELAIDE CONVENTION CENTRE  
North Terrace  
Adelaide SA 5000  
[adelaidecc.com.au](http://adelaidecc.com.au)

## PROGRAMS

TRAINEES' DAY - in-person only *(no virtual attendance option)*

- Thursday 17 October
- 08:30 - 17:00

GSA ASM - in-person only *(no virtual attendance option)*

- Friday 18 October - 08:30 - 17:30
- Saturday 19 October - 08:30 - 17:30
- Sunday 20 October - 09:00 - 15:30

SOCIAL EVENTS

- Trainees' Dinner - Thursday 17 October, from 18:30
- Welcome Reception - Wine Regions of SA - Friday 18 October from 17:30
- Social Spectacular - Saturday 19 October, from 19:00

## IMPORTANT DATES

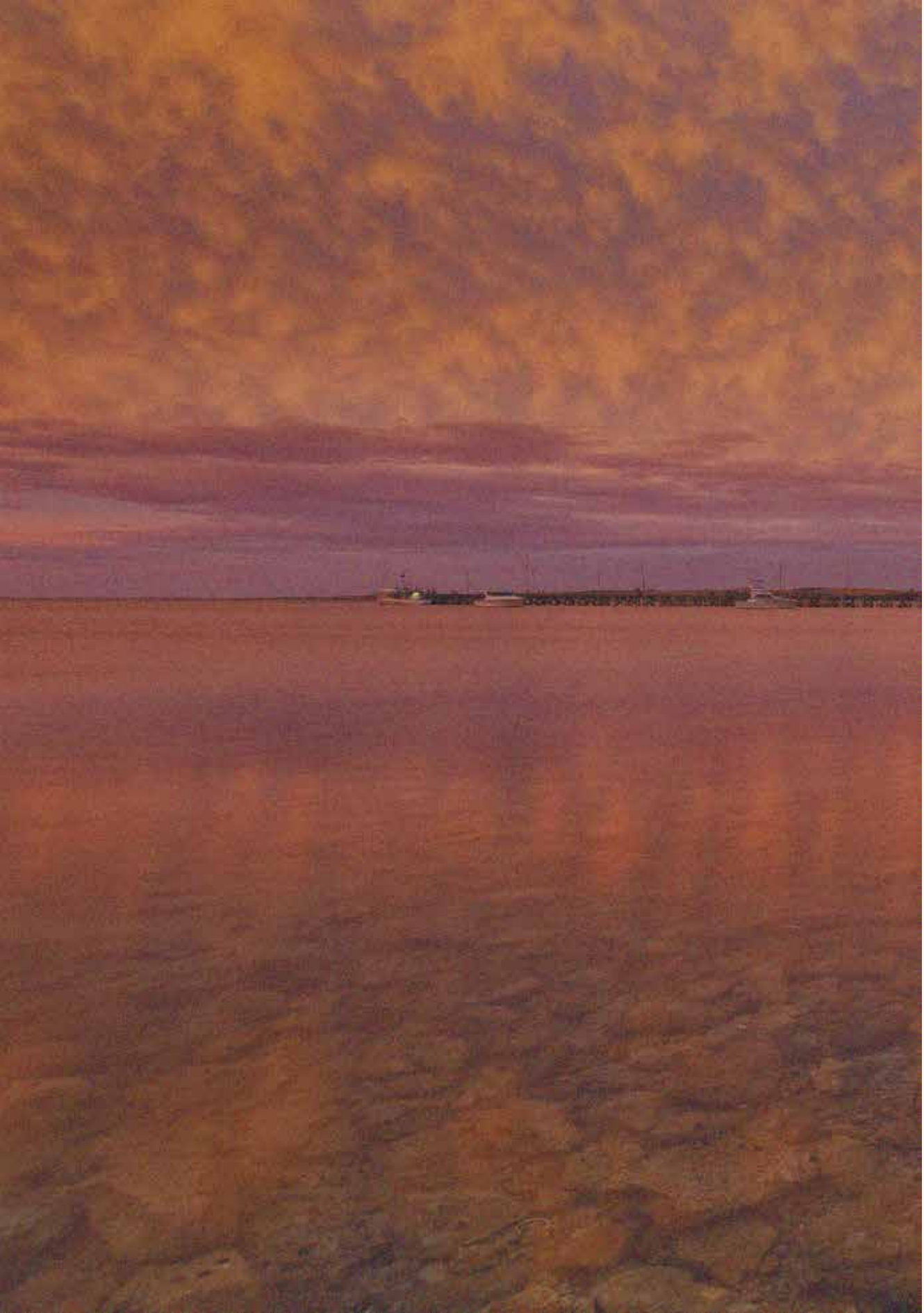
- Early Bird Registration: Closes Monday 09 September
- Abstract Submission Process: Closes Monday 17 June



**2024**

**GSA**

**ASM**



# ***INTERNATIONAL KEYNOTE SPEAKER.***



## *Prof Beat Schnüriger*

*SENIOR ATTENDING SURGEON & HEAD OF ACUTE CARE SURGERY  
TEAM – DEPARTMENT OF VISCERAL & TRANSPLANT SURGERY – BERN  
UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL, SWITZERLAND*

Prof Beat Schnüriger is currently Senior Attending Surgeon and Head of the Acute Care Surgery Team at the Department of Visceral and Transplant Surgery at Bern University Hospital, Switzerland.

His clinical and academic focus of interests are patients suffering from acute abdominal disease – trauma or non-trauma. After his basic training in general surgery, he completed a two-year research fellowship at the Department of Trauma and Acute Care Surgery at the Los Angeles County and University of Southern California Medical Center. After returning to Switzerland, he specialised in visceral surgery and established the Acute Care Surgery Team at Bern University Hospital.

He is the founder and president of the Swiss Association for Acute Care Surgery and the Annual Swiss Trauma & Acute Care Surgery Days.

Beat is married, has a 12-year-old daughter, and loves backcountry skiing and mountain biking.

# NATIONAL PLENARY SPEAKER.



## *Ms Leanne Liddle*

*EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR COMMUNITY RESILIENCE AND ENGAGEMENT  
COMMAND: NORTHERN TERRITORY POLICE FORCE*

Born and raised in Alice Springs, Central Arrernte woman Leanne Liddle has a passion for justice.

In her previous role as Director of the Aboriginal Justice Unit, based in Darwin, Leanne travelled thousands of kilometres to meet and listen to over 120 Aboriginal communities across the Northern Territory to hear the reasons for and solutions to the over representation of Aboriginal people in the justice system. In 1988, Leanne was South Australia's first Aboriginal policewoman. During her decade plus service, she experienced racism and abuse that she fought and used to fuel her passion to make a difference in justice. Leanne went on to complete a law degree at Flinders University with honours, and has since worked for the United Nations, and in several high-profile government roles.

Leanne is a member of the Royal Flying Doctor board for SA/NT and Deputy Chair of the Menzies School of Health, Council member for Flinders University and she has the honour of being the 2022 Northern Territory's Australian of the Year. Her last position was as the Acting First Nations Chief Health Officer in NT Health.

Leanne's current role has taken a full circle where she is the Executive Director Community Resilience and Engagement Command: Northern Territory Police Force to deliver on cultural reforms including racism.

Leanne is committed to empowering Aboriginal Territorians with solutions that will work where others have failed.

*Image/Photography credit: [A]manda Parkinson*

# **NATIONAL KEYNOTE SPEAKER.**



## *Dr Dan Pronk*

*EX-ARMY SPECIAL FORCES, EMERGENCY DOCTOR & AUTHOR*

Dr Dan Pronk studied medicine on an army scholarship and upon graduating, moved quickly into Special Operations following successful completion of the SAS selection course.

Dan has served four tours of duty in Afghanistan, and was awarded the Commendation for Distinguished Service for his leadership in combat on his second tour. Upon discharge from the army, he completed an MBA, and has since held medical leadership roles.

He has a deep interest in resilience, and is the co-author of the best-selling book *The Resilience Shield*, which presents resilience as a dynamic, multifactorial, and modifiable construct.



# NATIONAL KEYNOTE SPEAKER.



## *Dr Craig Jurisevic*

*CONSULTANT CARDIOTHORACIC SURGEON - ROYAL ADELAIDE HOSPITAL*

*Dr Craig Jurisevic is a cardiothoracic surgeon at the Royal Adelaide Hospital.*

*His main focus is on minimally invasive thoracic surgery and trauma surgery.*

*Craig has had an extensive career in conflict zone general, vascular and cardiothoracic surgery both as an individual in Israel, Palestine, Albania and Kosovo, and with the Australian Army in East Timor and Afghanistan. More recently he worked for five months as a volunteer trauma surgeon in the Russo-Ukraine war - from August - October, 2022, and again from February - June, 2023.*

*Whilst in Ukraine he was involved in damage control surgery in Role 2 military surgical units, specialised cardiothoracic trauma in larger Role 3 units, and front-line tactical training of army medics.*

# SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM.

## TRAINEES' DAY – THURSDAY 17 OCTOBER

### SESSION ONE - DAMAGE CONTROL

08:30 Welcome - Acknowledgment of Country

---

08:45 Physiology: First and second survey and stabilisation

---

09:00 How I Do it - The Days after Damage Control: Second look, closure, anastomosis

---

09:15 Difficult Duodenum

---

09:30 Pelvic trauma: Orthopaedic fractures

---

09:45 Panel and audience discussion

---

**10:00 - 10:30 MORNING TEA**

---

### SESSION TWO - ORGAN TRAUMA EMERGENCIES

10:30 Liver and spleen

---

10:50 Small bowel: What can you save? What must you save?

---

11:10 Large bowel

---

11:30 Urinary tract

---

11:50 Emergency tracheotomy

---

12:10 Panel and audience discussion

---

**12:20 - 13:00 LUNCH**

---

## SESSION THREE - BURNS, NEUROSURGERY, VASCULAR

13:00 Burns emergencies

---

13:20 Neurosurgery emergencies

---

13:40 Vascular emergencies

---

14:00 Chest and neck emergencies

---

14:20 Radiology in trauma, interventional radiology

---

14:40 Panel and audience discussion

---

**15:00 - 15:30 AFTERNOON TEA**

---

## SESSION FOUR - REAL WORLD EXPERIENCE

15:30 Bali bombings - my experience

---

16:00 The pathway to becoming a humanitarian worker, and the challenges in the field

---

16:30 Christchurch earthquake: Mental health and fatigue while on the ground

---

17:00 Panel and audience discussion

---

**17:15 PROGRAM CLOSE**

---

***FROM 18:30 - TRAINEES' DINNER***

---

# SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM.

## GSA ASM DAY 1 – FRIDAY 18 OCTOBER

### SESSION ONE - DEVELOPMENTS IN ROBOTICS

08:30 Official opening and Welcome to Country

---

08:45 Robotics in Hernia

---

09:00 Robotics in HPB

---

09:15 Robotic retrorectus incisional hernia repair

---

09:30 Robotics in ENT

---

09:45 Economic and ecological costs of robotic surgery: Is it worth it?

---

10:00 Panel and audience discussion

---

**10:15 - 10:45 MORNING TEA WITH INDUSTRY**

---

### SESSION TWO - TRAUMA EXPERIENCED BY ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PEOPLE

10:30 How surgeons may help close the Gap

---

10:45 Domestic and Family Violence - NT perspective

---

11:00 PLENARY - MS LEANNE LIDDLE: Valuable insights into aspects of law and justice surrounding domestic violence in the NT

---

11:30 Panel and audience discussion

---

11:40 KEYNOTE - PROF BEAT SCHNÜRIGER: Laparoscopy in the septic abdomen: Sense or Nonsense?

---

12:10 Research papers

---

**12:30 - 13:30 LUNCH WITH INDUSTRY**

---



## SESSION THREE - DAMAGE CONTROL SURGERY

13:30 Pelvic trauma

---

13:50 Temporary abdomen closure: When, how and why

---

14:10 Vascular emergencies

---

14:30 Surgical trauma management in difficult circumstances: Under fire - resources limitations

---

14:50 Panel and audience discussion

---

**15:00 - 15:30 AFTERNOON TEA**

---

## SESSION FOUR - PAEDIATRIC TRAUMA MANAGEMENT FOR THE GENERAL SURGEON

15:30 Burns

---

15:50 Trauma Laparotomy: Emergency approach to paediatric abdominal trauma

---

16:10 Paediatric orthopaedic trauma

---

16:25 Paediatric considerations and pitfalls: Assessment, approach, gender, consent

---

16:45 KEYNOTE - DR DAN PRONK: Building your Resilience Shield

---

17:15 Panel and audience discussion

---

**17:30 DAY ONE PROGRAM CLOSE**

---

**FROM 17:30 - WELCOME RECEPTION - WINE REGIONS OF SA**

---

# SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM.

## GSA ASM DAY 2 – SATURDAY 19 OCTOBER

### SESSION ONE - WISE INSIGHTS INTO REAL-WORLD EXPERIENCES

08:30 Welcome by Host - Journalist Mike Smithson

---

08:40 Experiences in the Kosovo war

---

09:05 Working for Mediciens Sans Frontière: To cure sometimes, to relieve often, to comfort always

---

09:30 Christchurch earthquake 13 years on: Can we ever be prepared for this level trauma?

---

09:55 Trauma and Emergency Surgery in Austere Environments

---

10:20 Panel and audience discussion

---

**10:30 - 11:00 MORNING TEA WITH INDUSTRY**

---

### SESSION TWO - ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN SURGERY

11:00 What does a General Surgeon need to know about Artificial Intelligence in Medicine

---

11:20 AI will replace General Surgeons

---

11:40 ChatGPT and its role in medical science

---

12:00 Panel and audience discussion

---

12:10 KEYNOTE - DR CRAIG JURISEVIC: War in Ukraine. Mass Casualties on a Grand Scale

---

12:40 Research papers

---

**13:00 - 14:00 LUNCH WITH INDUSTRY**

---

## SESSION THREE - AFTER THE TRAUMA

14:00 Good Samaritan? Forget about it, you need a lawyer

---

14:20 Amputation: Is it time to think of it as a reconstructive option ?

---

14:40 Psychological impact of trauma

---

15:00 Repercussions of open abdomen

---

15:20 Panel and audience discussion

---

15:35 RACS update from the President

---

**15:50 - 16:20 AFTERNOON TEA WITH INDUSTRY**

---

## SESSION FOUR -ASU DEBATE

### **DEBATE: ACUTE SURGICAL UNIT**

- 16:00
- Resources and relevance
  - Bang for buck
  - Should every hospital have one
- 

**17:15 DAY TWO PROGRAM CLOSE**

---

***FROM 19:00 - THE SOCIAL SPECTACULAR***

---

# SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM.

## GSA ASM DAY 3 – SUNDAY 20 OCTOBER

### SESSION ONE - MORE WISE INSIGHTS - REAL-LIFE EXPERIENCES

09:00 Plastic surgery burns perspective

---

09:20 Surgical response to disaster: Real life

---

09:40 Military Surgery in the 2000's and how it might look in the 2020's

---

10:00 My recent experience in Gaza

---

10:15 Trauma surgery in a low resource environment

---

**10:30 - 11:00 MORNING TEA WITH INDUSTRY**

---

### SESSION TWO - SUSTAINABILITY IN SURGERY

11:00 Waste Management and Recycling

---

11:15 How to design a carbon neutral hospital

---

11:30 Sustainability in Surgery: Nation Wide Approach

---

11:45 How bad is it really? The impact of medicine/surgery on global warming

---

12:00 Panel and audience discussion

---

12:15 KEYNOTE - PROF BEAT SCHNÜRIGER: Penetrating abdominal trauma - Taming the Beast!

---

12:45 Research papers

---

**13:05 - 14:00 LUNCH WITH INDUSTRY**

---



# SESSION THREE - THE WORKFORCE CRISIS IN GENERAL SURGERY

---

Round table Discussion:

Workforce Crisis in General Surgery: Struggles in rural recruitment

- Personal stories
  - 14:00 • Personal pathways and successes along the way
  - Key workforce issues across the country - snapshot
  - What have we got right? What have we got wrong?
  - Room for improvement
- 

15:30 AWARDING OF RESEARCH PRIZES AND PROGRAM CONCLUSION

---

**15:45 2024 GSA ASM PROGRAM CLOSE**

---

# ADVANCED EASC

## ADVANCED EMERGENCY ABDOMINAL SURGERY COURSE (A-EASC)

- Thursday 17 October
- Adelaide Convention Centre

We are pleased to partner with course founder Dr Michael Sugrue for the 7<sup>th</sup> Advanced Emergency Abdominal Surgery Course - A-EASC. This course builds on the award winning EASC - first held in Donegal Ireland in 2012. The EASC has expanded around the World - having been run in 12 countries and attended by 1500+ surgeons. EASC is regarded by majority of participants as one of the best courses they have attended.

The EASC curriculum focuses entirely on the acute abdomen - especially bowel and biliary emergencies - in a multidisciplinary learning approach.

### Course Objectives

- Understand an optimal approach to complex emergency abdominal surgery cases
- Identify intra-operative tips and traps
- Discuss advanced surgical techniques

### Who Should Attend ?

**CONSULTANTS** and **FELLOWS** who want to be more confident in their care of emergency surgery patients. *This course will change your practice.*

### Program & Registration

To view the program and to register, please visit [ASM, GENERALSURGEONS.COM.AU](http://ASM.GENERALSURGEONS.COM.AU)

# ACCOMMODATION.

A small city with big energy. Adelaide offers accommodation options for every budget. Stay in modern luxury or heritage charm, conveniently located in Adelaide's heart and just a short stroll from the Adelaide Convention Centre.

This year we have partnered ACCOMMODATION LINK for all of your ASM accommodation needs.

Accommodation Link is offering a reduced rates for a number of hotels, exclusive to delegates of the 2024 GSA ASM. All hotels are either 4 or 5 star properties and located within easy access of the Adelaide Convention Centre.

Reduced conference rates are available at the following properties:

1. InterContinental Adelaide - 5\*
2. Oaks Adelaide embassy Suites - 4\*
3. Oaks Adelaide Horizons Suites - 4\*
4. Sofitel Adelaide - 5\*
5. Stamford Plaza Adelaide - 5\*

Reduced rates are only accesible via the dedicated Acommodation Link-in-partnership-with-the-ASM portal - visit [ASM.GENERALSURGEONS.COM.AU/ACCOMMODATION](https://asm.generalsurgeons.com.au/accommodation) for further details.



2024

GSA

ASM





# SOCIAL PROGRAM.

## TRAINEES' DINNER

- Thursday 17 October
- The Scenic Hotel - Adelaide Hills. 18:30 - 23:00

Includes a fabulously entertaining talk, a delicious pub meal, and local brewed beverages. Also.... pool anyone?

## WELCOME RECEPTION - WINE REGIONS OF SA

- Friday 18 October
- Adelaide Convention Centre, 17:30-19:00 (following day 1 program close)

Includes wines from some South Australia's famous regions, mouth-watering cheeses, local produce, and wine-matched samplings, and as always, a good night

## THE SOCIAL SPECTACULAR

- Saturday 19 October
- St Peter's Cathedral. From 19:00
- Cocktail dress code

The architecturally-stunning St Peter's Cathedral will be our host for a magical evening of fun (verified by our many regular guests) and friendship, locally-sourced produce and beverages. And as always, there will be plenty of time for the dance floor.

*This is a truly unique venue that isn't often available for events so don't miss out!*

# CPD POINTS.

It is anticipated that the GSA ASM Scientific Program will be approved by the RACS CPD Program for the following:

*RACS Fellows, Specialist International Medical Graduates (SIMGs) and surgeons participating in the RACS CPD Program can claim one point per hour in Educational Activities - up to a maximum of 18 points.*

Once accreditation has been granted, points will be uploaded to individual Fellows' RACS profiles at the completion of the meeting.

Visit [ASM.GENERALSURGEONS.COM.AU](http://ASM.GENERALSURGEONS.COM.AU) for updates, or email [ASM@GENERALSURGEONS.COM.AU](mailto:ASM@GENERALSURGEONS.COM.AU) for any queries or assistance.

We can't wait to see you in Adelaide!







2024

GSA

ASM

