Royal Australasian College of Surgeons

Professor David Fletcher Award for Environmental Sustainability in Surgical Practice (Best Abstract)

About Professor David Fletcher

Professor David Fletcher FRACS has been a longstanding advocate for sustainability in surgical practice and played a pivotal role in establishing the RACS Environmental Sustainability in Surgical Practice Working Party (ESSPWP). Under his leadership, the Working Party built national momentum for embedding sustainable practice into surgery through policy, education and research initiatives. His commitment to both clinical excellence and environmental responsibility has inspired the next generation of surgeons to integrate sustainability into patient care.

Award Details

Eligibility: RACS Fellows, Trainees or medical students submitting abstracts at the ASC with a primary focus on environmental sustainability in surgery or perioperative care.

Judging: Convened by the ESSPWP
Criteria: Originality, measurable environmental impact, feasibility, alignment with sustainable surgical practice, and relevance to patient safety and equity.
Recognition: Certificate presented at the ASC; mention on RACS website and newsletter.
Funding: No financial cost to RACS – certificates only (no travel or prize component).

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Rationale

- Reinforces RACS commitment to sustainability and responsible surgical leadership.
- Recognises innovative research and measurable improvements in practice.
- Strengthens collaboration between RACS, ASC and the ESSPWP.
- Appropriately acknowledges Professor Fletcher's legacy in sustainable surgery.

Recommendation

That the Awards Committee approves the establishment of the Professor David Fletcher Award for Environmental Sustainability in Surgical Practice (Best Abstract) as a certificate-based award, to be conferred at the ASC in Perth 2026. Professor Fletcher is based in Perth and if approved, will be presenting the certificate.



Professor Mark Frydenberg
Chair, Health Policy and Advocacy Committee (HPAC)