

RACS ASC PERTH 2026



RACS ASC 2026 Breast Program Highlights

A message from the Breast Program Convenors

We extend our sincere appreciation to all colleagues who participated in the **RACS ASC May 2026 Breast Program**. This year's program featured distinguished international speakers who led insightful discussions across the breadth of contemporary breast cancer care, with particular focus on innovative minimally invasive breast surgery.

We were privileged to host **Dr Antonio Toesca**, who performed the world's first robotic nipple-sparing mastectomy, and **Professor Mok**, a leading authority and pioneer of minimally invasive breast surgery in South East Asia and our region.

The conference was preceded by the first **Minimally Invasive Breast Surgery Workshop** in Australia and New Zealand, held at CTEC. Thirty breast surgeons from Australia, New Zealand, and the United States participated in hands-on training in endoscopic and robotic nipple-sparing mastectomy with immediate implant reconstruction.

Participants also had the unique opportunity to train using the latest **DaVinci Single Port (SP) robotic system**. Special thanks to **A/Prof Sanjay Warriar** for joining the workshop faculty.

Program Highlights

- **Professor Nehmat Houssami** delivered a keynote lecture on advancements in breast screening, artificial intelligence integration, breast density challenges, and risk stratification.
- **Professor Christobel Saunders** presented a state-of-the-art lecture on breast MRI in preoperative planning and innovative optical coherence elastography probe technology.

- **Professor M. El-Tamer** delivered a keynote presentation on the role of surgery in the management of de novo stage IV breast cancer.

Collaborative Sessions

Combined breast and plastic surgery sessions explored current controversies in breast reconstruction, the latest updates on **BIA-ALCL** presented by **Dr Anand Deva**, and developments in lymphovenous bypass techniques.

Professor **Joon Pio Hong** delivered an outstanding lecture on robotic microsurgical lymphovenous anastomosis.

The BreastSurgANZ invited guest speaker, **Dr Di Hastrich**, shared an inspiring reflection on her professional journey and lessons learned throughout her career.

The closing session concluded with a dynamic discussion on the de-escalation of breast cancer care, led by **A/Prof Andrew Redfern**, **A/Prof Yvonne Zissiadis**, and **Professor M. El-Tamer**.

Grantley Gill Research Award

Best Oral Presentation: Dr Ngoc Hoang Ha

Research Title:

CRELD2 linked stroma alterations predict breast cancer invasion

I was deeply honoured and humbled to receive the Grantley Gill Research Prize in Breast Surgery following my presentation at the RACS ASC 2026. The presentation titled “CRELD2 linked stroma alterations predict breast cancer invasion” was a wonderful opportunity to present further exciting findings of my Master of Philosophy (Surgery) research. The first component of this research was presented at the ASC last year in 2025.

The findings of this project have supported the importance of breast cancer stroma. The stroma describes the network of tissue that the breast cancer cells are sitting within and currently it is not yet considered in breast cancer diagnosis, prognosis or cancer treatment. This research has shown that a protein called CRELD2 (cysteine-rich with EGF-like domain protein 2) is upregulated in some breast cancers and is associated with poor prognostic

factors. Furthermore, it also shows statistically significant marked stromal differences in cancers that have high CRELD2 compared to no/low CRELD2.

This research project has been a collaborative effort from the very beginning, and I would like to sincerely acknowledge the contribution, support, and encouragement of my supervisors and team. This team incorporates the nurses and doctors at the Royal Adelaide Hospital and the laboratory support from the Centre of Cancer Biology. These teams are led by my supervisors Dr Melissa Bochner and Dr Marina Kochetkova. Their expertise, insights, and willingness to challenge ideas helped strengthen the quality of the work and shaped the research in important ways.

I also greatly appreciated the opportunity to present at the conference and engage with researchers, clinicians, and professionals who share a passion for breast cancer research. The conversations sparked during and after the presentation have already inspired further reflection and ideas for continued work in this area. It is encouraging to know that the work resonated with peers and contributed meaningfully to the broader discussion within the field. The Grantley Gill Prize is particularly important to me given his impact on breast surgery in my home state of South Australia.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the conference organisers and judges for creating such a supportive and engaging environment.

For further information contact:

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Highlights from the Workshop and Scientific Program



Acknowledgements

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We also thank the BreastSurgANZ President, **A/Prof Caroline Baker**, Executive Council, and CEO **Sam Rawlings** for their support.



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Breast Program Convenor



Dr Wei Ling Ooi
Breast Program Convenor