Strides Toward Advancing Spine Surgery: Synergy Between Australasia and the International Society for the Advancement of Spine Surgery

Matthew Scott-Young

*Int J Spine Surg* published online 20 October 2022
http://ijssurgery.com/content/early/2022/10/17/8315

This information is current as of October 25, 2022.

Email Alerts  Receive free email-alerts when new articles cite this article. Sign up at:
http://ijssurgery.com/alerts
Strides Toward Advancing Spine Surgery: Synergy Between Australasia and the International Society for the Advancement of Spine Surgery

MATTHEW SCOTT-YOUNG, MBBS, FRACS

1Bond University, Queensland, Australia

Keywords: international, spine surgery


The Australian Orthopedic Association (AOA) was founded in 1937, and the Neurosurgical Society of Australasia (NSA) was founded in 1940. The AOA and the NSA provides training to surgeons interested in treating spinal diseases and disorders. To galvanize the specialty of spine surgery, the Spine Society of Australia (SSA) was founded on 13 July 1990 and facilitates the exchange of ideas, research, and communication about spine health. While most members are orthopedic surgeons and neurosurgeons, the SSA includes all health professionals concerned with the spine’s care.

While most dedicated spinal surgeons embraced the concept of spine surgery as its subspecialty, others remained loyal to their craft groups. However, there remained a diversity of opinions on ownership of the spine specialty, the most appropriate training methods, trainee selection, theories on causation, surgical procedures, and innovation.

The Post-Fellowship Education and Training (PFET) Program in Spinal Surgery was formed after discussions and agreements between the NSA and AOA. The PFET allows suitably qualified independent specialist neurosurgeons and orthopedic surgeons to undertake extensive education and training to achieve advanced proficiency, knowledge, and skills in spinal surgery. The PFET Program has clearly stated objectives based on achieving a level of competence above that of a generalist neurosurgeon or orthopedic surgeon. The PFET Program complements the Surgical Education and Training Program in Neurosurgery and Orthopedics.

The SSA, in conjunction with Monash University, commenced the development of the Australian Spine Registry pilot in early 2016 and started patient recruitment and data collection in January 2018. This registry aims to be an essential platform for spine surgery research in Australia by capturing information from large numbers of spine surgery patients from multiple surgical and geographical sources with a particular focus on assessing patient-reported outcomes.

Improvements and advancements in patient outcomes with spine surgery have been facilitated by many factors, including the potential offered by innovations and new technologies. Australian surgeons tend to be surgeon scientists and, as such, publish their research on a regular basis. The synergy of the SSA and the International Society for the Advancement of Spine Surgery (ISASS), including its scholarly publication, the International Journal of Spine Surgery (IJSS), in their objectives is obvious. The goal of the SSA, ISASS, and IJSS is to promote and disseminate the most up-to-date scientific and clinical research to their membership. This will result in innovations and new spinal surgery technologies, including advancements in basic science, biologics, and tissue engineering.

As a member of the SSA and ISASS and as an editor, reviewer, and contributor to the IJSS, I am aware we have common goals. They are all dedicated to educating spine surgeons worldwide by reporting on the scientific basis, indications, surgical techniques, complications, outcomes, and
follow-up data for promising spinal innovations and procedures.

**Funding:** The author received no financial support for the research, authorship, and/or publication of this article.

**Declaration of Conflicting Interests:** The author reports no conflicts of interest in this work.

**Corresponding Author:** Matthew Scott-Young, Bond University, Southport Central, Building G, 27 Garden St, Southport, Queensland 4215, Australia; MScott-Young@goldcoastspine.com.au

This manuscript is generously published free of charge by ISASS, the International Society for the Advancement of Spine Surgery. Copyright © 2022 ISASS. To see more or order reprints or permissions, see http://ijssurgery.com.