

Surgeons Adopt Cutting Edge Technology

The Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS) is the internationally recognised organisation for more than 7000 surgeons, including 1,765 trainees, based in Australia and New Zealand. RACS trains surgeons in nine surgical specialties, maintains surgical standards, advocates and researches. Needless to say, RACS' membership is exacting in its expectations of the College and the demands on its 200 staff are significant.

Surgeons are busy people. *iMIS* saves them time. Pre-*iMIS*, surgeons applying for training had to supply RACS with copious amounts paperwork in hardcopy form. Surgeons applying for several courses simultaneously would have to go through the process from scratch each time over, despite much of the required information being identical for each course. Now one on-line application is all that's required.

"It wasn't a good use of anyone's time," says David Spargo, RACS' IT Manager. "Now both parties – members and RACS - benefit." David adds that *iMIS* also saves money by reducing hardcopy applications that increased the need for casual data entry staff. *iMIS* also lets members pay, update personal details and access their academic results on-line.

Surgeons have taken to listing themselves on the RACS' website Find A Surgeon facility as standard practice. The function links the public to RACS members in a direct and practical way; enabling them to search via geography and speciality. The website attracts 40,000 visitors a month.

iMIS is used across the organisation, with about 75 staff using it constantly and that number again accessing it daily. "Consolidating the different databases has proven very powerful," says David. "We were using separate legacy databases for billing, professional development, training and events." Extracting information is now easier and less time consuming. RACS' IT team of five is at the heart of the changes.

"Now we have the information we need on members in one database everything is traceable and the history of our interactions is extensive."