CONFERENCE REVIEW

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The Annual Scientific Meeting of the Australasian Trauma Society, TRAUMA2007,
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The [Australasian Trauma Society](#) (ATS) was formed just ten years ago and celebrated its tenth scientific meeting this year. The society was formed under the guidance of Dr Ian Civil from Auckland, New Zealand and Dr Tony Joseph from Royal North Shore Hospital in Sydney, New South Wales, Australia, with a current membership of just under 300. Membership is open to medical, nursing and allied health care providers.

The scientific meeting was conducted this year over one and a half days, the first day being the half day of scientific sessions. The meeting aims to enlighten participants with new trauma management, results of recent research, and current research projects. The meeting has more of a medical and nursing focus due to their greater membership, prehospital care provider memberships are low and likewise is the attendance at the meeting.

The sessions on day one were a brief overview of what is new in the management of specific aspects of trauma. These overviews included; "Minimal Invasive Orthopaedics" by Thomas Kossmann, "Burns: What's New?" by Michael Muller, "Spinal Cord Injury – What's New?" by Ralph Stanford, "The National Trauma Registry" by Cliff Pollard, "Recombinant Factor VIIa" by Michael Parr, "Postinjury Abdominal Compartment Syndrome" by Zsolt Balogh, and the "DECRA Trial" by Jamoe Cooper. The session of most interest for the prehospital sector was the one on burns, findings from recent studies have identified running water at 15° Celsius as the best for cooling burns and some of the new burns dressings, with specific gel compositions, improving the outcome of the burn area. A point highlighted in the session about "Postinjury Abdominal Compartment Syndrome" was that an increase in crystalloid resuscitation during the early hospital phase increases the risk of Abdominal Compartment Syndrome (ACS), this issue may also be of interest to those in the prehospital sector.

There were two keynote presentations on the full day of scientific sessions, the first was on "Prehospital Care: What is the Evidence?" by Dr Karim Brohi, the second was "The Trauma Nurse Practitioner – The Way of the Future" by Erica Caldwell. Dr Brohi is a trauma and vascular surgeon based at the Royal London Hospital, London, England, and was the founder of the trauma based web site [Trauma.org](#). Dr Brohi highlighted some of the issues with prehospital research, predominately the lack of quality specific focused research, e.g. large simple randomised clinical trials and large detailed cohort studies. Erica Caldwell is a nurse who is currently the trauma coordinator at the Liverpool Hospital in Sydney, New South

Wales, Australia. Erica's presentation was on her ATS funded travel scholarship to the United States of America (U.S.A.), United Kingdom (UK), and Germany, to look at the role nurse practitioners.

After the morning tea break was the annual Gordon Trinca Lecture by Dr Tony Joseph who highlighted advances of the ATS and some trauma management over the ten years of the ATS. The other mid morning session was a debate between Dr Brohi and Dr Parr about the necessity of the trauma surgeon. Even though both presenters put forward compelling arguments for each side, as seems the norm with most debates of this nature, it was a draw.

After the lunch break was the concurrent sessions, this consisted of the free paper session which covered clinical, non-clinical, and registry based research. Each free paper presenter was allowed nine minutes to present their paper with no follow up questions. People with questions were encouraged to discuss their questions with the presenters during the afternoon break. The other papers presented covered; trauma ultrasound, thoracic injury, paediatric surgery, inferior vena cava filters, trauma radiology and the use of Mannitol in head injury.

The final session of the day covered: a U.S.A. program about identifying medical issues that deterred elderly people from safe driving; the specific issues that accompany elderly patients as a result of road trauma; the results of an Australian research project into the accident rate of learner drivers and "P" plate (provisional licence) drivers and the programs that have been proposed and initiated to decrease the accident and death rate; and future preventative measures for cars, roads, and the road surrounds to decrease road trauma death and injury within Australia.

There were a small number of posters on display for the duration of the conference, the posters covered a broad range of topics from in hospital to prehospital research.

The 2008 scientific meeting will be held in Adelaide.