

Welcome

Welcome to the first edition of the Australian Spine Registry (ASR) newsletter. In this inaugural edition, we will give you an overview of the registry, introduce the team and provide you with our progress to date.

Overview

The ASR was first conceptualized by John Cunningham in 2010. His vision was, and continues to be, to provide a means of improving the care of spinal patients by collecting and analysing meaningful and impartial patient outcome data. He approached the Spine Society of Australia (SSA) and his vision started to come to light.

The SSA, through John Cunningham's efforts together with Michael Johnson, took the leadership role to begin the development of a spine surgery outcomes registry as an essential platform for all spine surgery research in Australia. The ultimate goal of the registry is to capture information about all spine surgery patients with a particular focus on the assessment of quality of care outcomes in patients. In 2014, the SSA approached Monash Public Health and Preventive Medicine, Monash University and in 2015 appointed them as registry custodians. After receiving industry funding, the coordination of the pilot phase of the registry began in earnest in late 2015.

Registry Aims

The aims of the two-year pilot are to establish the ASR and collect data in order to:

- Establish feasibility of data collection,
- Confirm acceptable levels of compliance,
- Confirm costing of the project for future budgetary and planning purposes,
- Undertake 6-monthly reviews of data items to refine the minimum

Data Collection

The data collection tool that has been selected for this registry is called KEOPS. KEOPS is a data management tool designed and constructed specifically for spine specialists. The ability to customize KEOPs for Australian practices and its ease of use were key reasons for this software being selected for this pilot.

Meet the Team

**Mr Michael Johnson MBBS, FRACS (orth),
Clinical Lead, Australian Spine Registry**

Mr Michael Johnson obtained his FRACS(orth) in 1986. He then did further training in U.K, Germany and the USA. He specialises in the treatment of thoracic and lumbar spine disorders in adolescents and adults.



At present he works in private practice at Epworth Richmond in Melbourne. Mr Johnson is on the executive of the Spine Society of Australia and is the current vice-president. He is also Chair of the Clinical Committee of the Spinal Surgery MBS Review. He was a previous Board member of the Australian Orthopaedic Association, and previous Chair of Professional Standards and Development.

Dr Susannah Ahern

MBBS (Hons), MBA, FRACMA, PhD

Registry Custodian and Academic Lead

Head, Registry Sciences Unit, Monash University



A/Prof Susannah Ahern is the Head of the Registry Science Unit, Course Coordinator of the Masters of Health Services Management, and Academic Lead for the Australian Spine Registry based at Monash University. In her career as a medical administrator, she has

worked in many senior management and executive roles in Victorian health services. Her academic interests include registry governance and operations, quality improvement, patient reported outcomes, and medical workforce.

Dr Esther Apos BSc.(Hons), PhD
Registry Coordinator

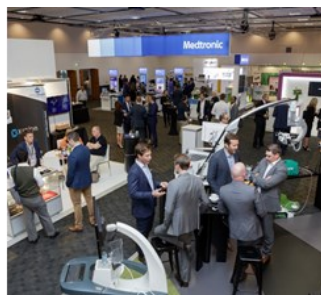
Dr Esther Apos joined the Monash Public Health and Preventative Medicine as an adjunct Research Fellow in 2017 and has been engaged by the Spine Society of Australia since 2015 to coordinate the registry. Dr Apos has a PhD in Biochemistry and has extensive experience in sponsored and investigator initiated clinical trials, monitoring, auditing, ethics and governance, medical device quality management systems (ISO 13485) and project management.



News/Events

ASR makes a mini debut!

The ASR made a mini debut at the SSA's 28th Annual Scientific Meeting in picturesque Hobart in April 2017. The principal investigators of the ASR pilot met and the minimum dataset was refined. Industry sponsors were introduced to the ASR and the registry coordinator and all were very enthusiastic and supportive of the progress made to date by ASR. The SSA is very grateful for their continuing support.



Progress to date



- Ethics and governance approvals completed in 11 hospitals
- Funding secured from medical device companies and BUPA
- Database and Website developed and live
- Patient brochures, posters and other promotional materials in clinics

First Patient entered into the Registry!

January 2018 was an exciting month for the ASR. With all software systems in place, Michael Johnson, the ASR clinical lead and principal investigator of Epworth Richmond, recruited the first registry patient. With a 2,000 patient target for the pilot, all principal investigators are excited about promoting the registry and recruiting eligible patients.

More Information?

If you would like more information about the registry please visit our website:

www.spineregistry.org.au

Or, call the registry on 1800 998 722

An initiative of the SSA
in partnership with Monash University



MONASH University
Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences

Funding Supporters

