

# RYAN COHEN

APPLICATION FOR NDASS PRESIDENT 2017

## MOTIVATION FOR ROLE

Throughout its inaugural year NDASS has continually provided medical students in Perth with impeccable surgical events and opportunities that not only exposes them to and educates them about basic and advanced surgical techniques, but additionally provides them with meaningful real-life insight into where a career in surgery can take them. It is my ambition to continue this work and endeavour to lead NDASS to further heights in 2017. The role of president allows me to work with a like-minded team to deliver to our members engaging educational content that will prepare them for a career in surgery and provide them with mentoring and networking opportunities with experts in the field.

I am motivated for this role because I believe in the transformational nature of education and the capacity NDASS therefore has to shape the next generation of surgeons, and more broadly, healthcare professionals across Australia.

## IDEAS FOR 2017

### Commitment to Success

2016 was a fantastic inaugural year for NDASS and the future of the organisation relies on delivering the same high standard of events that have been provided in the past. A key goal of the NDASS committee next year will be to perpetuate the NDASS legacy of this year and connect students, clinicians and academics in a framework that fosters surgical education and personal development.

### Strategic Planning

With the success of 2016, it is essential that NDASS looks towards long-term goals. This involves identifying the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and challenges that NDASS faces today and within the foreseeable future. I would like to work with the NDASS executives of 2016 and 2017 to formulate a collective understanding of where we think the organisation is currently, where it is heading and how we plan to get it there. This will be essential for continued success and momentum in years to come.

### Educational Process

While informally proposed this year, in 2017 I would like to oversee the formulation and introduction of the NDASS curriculum. This will allow for continuous development of surgical knowledge, skills and attitudes throughout medical school and creating of meaningful educational process connecting NDASS events. The curriculum will be aligned with UNDF learning goals and upon completion students will be in the optimal position to enter the JDocs framework for a continued career in surgery.

For those unsure or not wanting to pursue a future in surgery, I believe that the NDASS curriculum will provide the perfect adjunct to improve basic surgical technique required for non-surgical specialties, as well as sufficiently expose them to core surgical content in order to best prepare them for internship.

In addition to the educational benefits for students, the institution of a curriculum will provide added opportunity for long-term sponsorship relationships, clinician networking and NDASS stability and a sustained professional reputation.



## CONTRIBUTION TO NDASS EXECUTIVE

### Approach to Leadership

I have a bottom-up approach to leadership. I believe that through this style, NDASS committee members will feel more engaged and responsible for events and our professional reputation. This will provide a platform for others to feel more ownership of the organisation and empowered to take on leadership roles in the future.

In order to foster an environment that encourages committee members to feel valued and fulfilled we will continue to develop our partnerships and shared understandings of our motivations and strengths. Through this I hope to allow committee members to find personally meaningful tasks that will promote collective success and a fun working environment.

### Educational Experience

Throughout my pre-med life I was heavily involved in educational planning and facilitation. I plan to use these skills and the knowledge gained during my Masters of Health Professions Education to formulate, facilitation, and evaluate NDASS's future curriculum.

### Strategic Planning

I plan to draw on my previous experience running a national youth education organisation to synthesise and direct the long-term plans for NDASS. This will involve formation of a strategic plan for 2017 and tracking of key performance indicators for the organisation.

## PAST EXPERIENCE

### **Notre Dame Association of Surgical Students** **2016**

MED300 Representative

### **Habonim Dror Australia Inc.** **2007-2014**

**National Chairperson (2011-2014):** Oversight of national budget, training and professional development of 200 staff members, developing and monitoring strategic planning and organisational sustainability, supporting and advising State Directors.

**International Programs Director (2011-2014):** Coordination and planning of international educational and social outreach programs, participant recruitment, requisition and allocation of financial assistance for participants.

**Youth Guide:** Planning, coordination, and facilitation of weekly educational activities.

### **Conferences and Seminars**

Australasian Students' Surgical Conference delegate **2015**

Clinical Teaching on the Run participant **2016**