

Name: Jess Micallef

Year level: Med300

Role: Operational committee (events and sponsorship)



Why would I like this role?

After completing my Med300 clinical placement in surgery I am sure that surgery is the career path that I wish to follow in the future. Becoming part of the NDASS committee will allow me to get involved and experience a different side of surgery. It will allow me to develop and grow business like skills and networking skills that will be invaluable in the future. It also gives me the opportunity to surround myself with like-minded people who have a true passion for surgery. Being part of the committee provides me the chance to liaise with other members in a team-based environment that will provide a good platform for the future. Furthermore, becoming part of the committee, especially operations, I can help co-ordinate and establish events that can assist fellow students to enjoy the practical side of surgery as well as get an understanding through education of what a life of surgery can entail..

What are my ideas for the role in 2017?

I thin firstly it is essential to continue with the workshops and events that have already been established in NDASS. It would be crucial to build on the relationship with the surgeons and other professionals who have already donated time towards NDASS.

Events:

As mentioned the first thing would be to continue with the events that have already been established. I believe it would be beneficial however to separate the clinical and pre-clinical student practical events. There are students who come into med school with the knowledge of wanting to be a surgeon, however have never picked up a scalpel or a suturing kit. On the contrary there are students who have been completed numerous complex sutures, are confident with hand tying and assisted in numerous laparoscopic and open procedures. Thus, I would be keen to trial separate events for the clinical and pre-clinical students. The event for pre-clinical students could be done with the help of volunteers that are already involved with the university. This would include past students, clinical students and clinical staff of the university. When I entered Med300 I did not know basic things such as what are the different types of suture material or when they are used, or what the different types of knots are, how to do a hand tie or what any of the instruments are what they are called. A lot of this stuff I had to go home and research to get a better understanding of the practices in theatre. I believe an event focusing on these basics of surgery would be a great stepping-stone for the pre-clinical students. For clinical students, I would try to build on the events that are already in place. The one skill that I think would be greatly beneficial and also just a whole lot of fun is a laparoscopic simulator. Logistically this may be difficult to organize however I would be willing to do everything I can to enable it to happen. Lastly for the events I would like to incorporate a more educational aspect to NDASS. There is already an event “your

career in surgery” that helps student get a better idea of the surgical colleges that one day to be a part of, however I would like to have a representative from the RACS or similar to give a lecture about CV building and the boxes needed to tick to make yourself stand out. A lecture about things to do, not so much as a medical student, but as a junior doctor. Information on the importance of getting involved in research and what type of research is necessary, higher education, teaching and ways to get involved in service registrar jobs. I personally think this would be ideal as it can give students, especially the Med400’s a plan for the next 2-3 years on what they need to be working towards.

Mentor

The last thing that I would like to work towards for NDASS 2017 is setting up a mentoring program. With the help of the committee I would try to get at least one surgeon from each of the colleges to take a student for two weeks at the end of the year as a sort of work experience. In clinical years we are exposed to numerous surgeons and numerous teams however we don not cover all specialties. This would give students the opportunity to shadow a surgeon in the field they wish to provide a platform for networking, advice for the future and potentially research opportunities. Assuming there will be numerous students who will want to take up this opportunity selection will be based on a similar way to applying to the committee, which will then be followed by a vote.

What can I bring to NDASS?

As previously mentioned, I am now 100% certain a career in surgery is what I wish to achieve after medical school. This makes me a person that is passionate about what NDASS is representing. Furthermore, I enjoy teaching, I have been involved with the mentoring program through med school for the Med100’s and 200’s the last two years. Therefore I would really want to get involved in providing events and opportunities to educate our fellow students a. I also have good generic skills that are desirable for a committee member. I have good organization skills, very approachable, good communicator and experienced in student committee roles

Relevant past experience

Student research committee member for the Brain and mind research institute (BMRI)– 2013

- I would help co-ordinate getting students doing masters degree at university of Sydney involved with current research projects at BMRI
- Have meetings with research supervisors on type of students they wanted involved.
- Help organize sponsorship for students to undertake their own research through the institute.