

Welcome to the 6th Australian Spine Registry Newsletter

OUR VISION

The Australian Spine Registry aims to be a world class, state of the art clinical quality registry.

OUR MISSION

The Australian Spine Registry aims to assist spine care professionals to improve patient care through providing improved access to outcome data and facilitating research.

Recruitment update

The registry has continued to work throughout the pandemic, maintaining steady patient recruitment over the past two and a half years despite elective surgery limitations. The registry has recruited over 4000 patients with numbers expected to steadily increase as hospitals and surgeons catch-up on elective surgery waiting lists. In May 2022 we published our 4th Annual Report capturing data from January 2018 - January 2022. The Annual Report is available for download from the ASR website (<https://www.spineregistry.org.au/news/>). The annual report

New staff for the ASR

In 2022, the ASR welcomed two new staff members to the team – Mr Sean Bulmer and Ms Charis Brown as Research and Data Assistant and Senior Research Coordinator.

Sean joins the team with a background in research and health administration and Charis with a background as a critical care registered nurse & clinical trial coordinator along with recently completing a Master's in Public Health

Our new expanded team will allow the ASR to expedite the staged national expansion of the registry .

Funding for the ASR

Sustainable funding has always been a key priority for the ASR. A comprehensive business case was presented to the former minister for health, the Honourable Mr Greg Hunt in October 2021. We are pleased to report that the federal government has awarded the ASR with 2 years of funding. This funding will assist projects such as:

- The development of a paediatric spine registry in conjunction with the Queensland Children's Hospital and Queensland University of Technology, which collect outcome data on paediatric spinal deformities.
- Updating and improving the data collection software (KEOPs) for improved usability for surgeons and patients, data collection, specifically around comorbidities that impact spine surgery, adding of registry materials in other languages in order to collect data from non-english speaking patients.
- Staged roll out of the ASR to other national public and private hospitals



Charis & Sean

Stakeholder Engagement

In May 2022, Dr Esther Apos and Mr Michael Johnson attended the Spine Society of Australia (SSA) 33rd Annual Scientific meeting in Darwin.

Mr Michael Johnson presented an overview of the current status of the registry and Dr Esther Apos a talk entitled - 'Comorbidity data collection across different spine registries- an evidence map' This evidence map sought to identify best practice in obtaining comorbidity data across international spine registries. This paper has recently been submitted to the European Spine Journal and is currently under review.

In November 2022, the ASR team headed to Adelaide for the Inaugural Registries Annual Scientific Meeting, facilitating connections with colleagues from around Australia to explore the challenges and opportunities of registries. The ASR was represented by Dr Apos presenting a snapshot of her recent research on comorbidities.



In May 2023, Melbourne will host the International Spineweek combined with the SSA Scientific meeting. This is an excellent opportunity for the ASR to update international delegates and stakeholders in the registry activities.

Contacting the ASR

The ASR is an opt-out registry for those who are patients of a participating surgeon. Participation does not impact routine care or follow up.

If you have any questions regarding your participation or the questionnaires for completion, we would encourage you to contact us for clarification.

The registry email address is SpineRegistryAU@monash.edu

You can also contact the registry on our direct phone number 1800 998 722

Our website is www.spineregistry.org.au

The ASR would like to thank the patients, surgeons, practice staff and stakeholders for the ongoing interest and support of this very important work that aims to assist spine care professionals to improve patient outcomes and care.

An initiative of the SSA in partnership with Monash University

