

# CITATION FOR HONORARY FELLOWSHIP

## *Dr Rodney Mitchell*



Dr Rodney Mitchell has worked in Adelaide, South Australia, since 2007, in both Anaesthesia and in Critical Care, and in both public and private practice. He is currently Head of Unit for the Modbury Hospital High Dependency Unit. Prior to that he spent eight years working in Central Australia Northern Territory, initially as a remote area primary health care physician, including five years with the Royal Flying Doctor Service, and then as the Director of the Department of Anaesthesia at the Alice Springs Hospital.

Dr Mitchell was a Councillor for the Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists (ANZCA) from 2009 to 2016, and the Vice President from 2016 to 2018 and the President from 2018 to 2020.

The focus of his professional life has been to work towards facilitating equity in access to health care, both nationally and globally. This has included addressing the provision of health care to marginalised members of Australian and New Zealand society, including indigenous peoples, recent migrants, lower socio-economic groups, those people living in rural and remote areas, and to those people living in low income countries.

Dr Mitchell has frequently stated his firm conviction that a strong ANZCA-HKCA relationship, based on the principle of mutually respectful and beneficial partnership, is of key strategic importance for both colleges. In his capacity as President of ANZCA he has actively sought to lead a Council that will put into place measures that will not only lay the foundation of a productive and dynamic partnership, but that will ensure the relationship continues to grow and strengthen into the future.

To this end, under his Presidency the ANZCA Council has included the following endeavours.

1. An invitation to the President of the HKCA to participate in ANZCA's council meetings as a co-opted observer. This places the President of the HKCA alongside the Presidents of the College of Intensive Care Medicine of Australia and New Zealand and the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons as the only invited college Presidents to join the ANZCA Council meeting.
2. Establishment of the International Academy of Colleges of Anaesthesiologists, with the HKCA being requested to work alongside The Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists (ANZCA), College of Anaesthesiologists of Ireland (CAI), Royal College of Anaesthetists (RCOA) and Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (RCPSC) as one of the five founding colleges of this new global anaesthesiology entity.
3. Worked with the HKCA to promote the opportunity for newly graduated FHKCAs to achieve FANZCA through completing twelve months in a teaching hospital in Australia or New Zealand. Achievement of FANZCA remains dependent on successful completion of workplace-based assessments, however this new ANZCA approved pathway obviates the requirement for FHKCA to sit the ANZCA Final Examination. This initiative has been delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but is expected to be available soon.
4. Ongoing commitment to twice-yearly meetings between the Presidents and CEOs of our two colleges. Dr Mitchell's preparedness to travel to have face-to-face meeting in 2019 despite the late cancellation of the ASM 2019 and the associated difficulties with international travel to Hong Kong was demonstration of his, and ANZCA's, commitment to maintaining this high-level relationship.
5. Stated commitment to the retention of Hong Kong in the ANZCA ASM cycle of venues.
6. Continued to encourage mutual overlap of our curricula, including the strengthening of collaboration around the Examinations.
7. To encourage FANZCA residents in Hong Kong to become involved with ANZCA committees, court of examiners, Document Development Groups, and research.

On each of his several visits to Hong Kong as President of ANZCA, Dr Mitchell initiated in-depth face-to-face discussions with HKCA fellows and trainees with tact, cultural sensitivity, diplomacy, and genuine respect and friendship. The relationship of ANZCA and HKCA has been rekindled with Dr Mitchell's supreme effort during his presidency, and we can be confident it will continue to grow in the years ahead. Dr Mitchell's achievements and contributions deserve to be recognised.

Mr. President, it is with great pleasure that I present to you Dr Rodney Mitchell for the award of Fellowship of the Hong Kong College of Anaesthesiologists, *honoris causa*.