

13/05/2021

Dear fellow ANZSRS members,

It is with great excitement and honour, along with some nerves that I take over the role of ANZSRS president. It truly is a privilege to be in this role and to know that I have an amazing group of board members and other office holders to assist me in guiding ANZSRS for the next 2 years. A look back at the past presidents of this society reveals a list of people that I have looked up to and admired. I certainly hope that I can live up to the standard they have set.

The biggest asset of this amazing society is its dedicated members and in particular the people who volunteer to take on formal roles within the society. These people all deserve a virtual round of applause for the work they do for ANZSRS. I strongly encourage each member to contribute to our society in whatever way you can and to consider taking on one of these roles when the opportunity presents itself. It is a great way to contribute to ANZSRS and to become involved with many other members. It is through these roles that I have met a lot of ANZSRS members, many of whom I consider to be my friends.

On behalf of the ANZSRS members I would like to thank Jarrod Warner for his outstanding contribution to our society as president for the last 2 years. I think we would all agree that the last 2 years have been extraordinarily challenging for many members and the society as a whole. Jarrod was able to guide the ANZSRS through this period with amazing calmness and professionalism, always having the society and its members as the focus of any decisions. It has been an absolute pleasure to work with Jarrod over this time. Thanks Jarrod.

I would also like to acknowledge Brigitte Borg, Pam Liakakos and the rest of the 2021 ASM Local Organising Committee. The last-minute cancellation of the 2020 Melbourne ASM was a huge disappointment to the whole society, but particularly to this crew who had put in a great amount of work preparing for this meeting. The willingness of this group to take on the organisation of our first ever virtual ASM was a great indicator of their dedication to ANZSRS. I am sure we will all agree that the 2021 virtual meeting was a great success and this group, along with Matt Ellis (Scientific and Conference Committee chair), deserve a huge amount of credit for this. Thanks to you all.

The quality and skills of the ANZSRS Board members fill me with great confidence. They are a dedicated group of professionals with the best interest of ANZSRS at the heart of everything they do. It is a joy to be a part of this team. I would like to congratulate Grace Madden on her appointment as Vice President. Given her enthusiasm and her skills at looking after the communications portfolio, I know she will be of great support to me and the rest of the Board over the next 2 years.

I am looking forward to working with all ANZSRS members over the next two years. I am sure it will present some challenges as we come to grips with whatever "COVID-normal" is, but the thing I am looking forward to the most is the thought that we may be able to have some sort of face-to-face Annual Scientific Meeting in Adelaide in 2022. Please feel free to reach out to the Board with any questions or ideas you may have - we are here to serve the ANZSRS.

Best wishes to all and stay safe.

By

Danny Brazzale