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Combined Australasian Trauma Society and Trauma Association of Canada Annual Scientific Meeting, TRAUMA2009 SKYCITY Auckland Convention Centre, Auckland, New Zealand 5th-7th March 2009

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Combined Australasian Trauma Society and Trauma Association of Canada Annual Scientific Meeting, TRAUMA2009

SKYCITY Auckland Convention Centre, Auckland, New Zealand 5th-7th March 2009

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This year's Australasian Trauma Society (ATS) annual scientific meeting was held in conjunction with the Trauma Association of Canada (TAC) for the third time since a joint meeting in Sydney in 2001, and subsequent meeting at Whistler in 2005.

The scientific meeting was conducted over three days at Auckland's SKYCITY Convention Centre, with each day addressing specific trauma themes. The focus of this year's program was based on more surgical aspects of trauma than in previous years, and as in previous years, there was a noticeable lack of paramedic presence at the meeting. This lack of paramedic presence was also noticeable in the prehospital presentations, which were predominately done by medical doctors.

In a richly cultural opening ceremony, conference participants were welcomed by the indigenous (Maori) people of New Zealand with a *Powhiri*, which is said to ward off evil spirits and unite both visitor and host in an environment of friendship and peace. Following this spectacular opening ceremony, and subsequent welcome speeches, the Combined Australasian Trauma Society and Trauma Association of Canada was underway.

Of the four themes covered on day one, the first session commenced with *Resuscitation*, followed by *Burns, Trauma Education/Simulation and Military medicine,* each with four presentations. The last three themed sessions for the day were run concurrently with free paper sessions which, to some extent, followed the current theme.

Day two also consisted of four themes and three free paper sessions. The first of the themes covered *Disaster/Humanitarian* medicine, followed by *Clinical Updates,* which included the ATS annual Gordon Trinca Lecture by Dr Andrew Pearce, and the TAC annual Fraser Gurd lecture by Dr Basil A. Pruitt Jr. The remaining two themes comprised of a *Prehospital* theme with three presentations and *Case Presentations* where three cases were presented.

As in the previous two days, day three also had four themes, including four free paper sessions. The first theme covered *Injury Prevention,* with four presentations; *Damage Control* with four presentations; *Trauma Outcomes* with four presentations and *Pregnancy/Paediatrics* with three presentations.

A number of posters were on display for the duration of the conference, covering a broad range of topics from in-hospital to prehospital research. Both the ATS and TAC awarded a prize for best poster and oral presentation.

The conference finished with a gala dinner where participants from all countries mingled and partied into the early hours of the morning.

A copy of the scientific program can be downloaded here.

The next **joint scientific meeting** is scheduled for 2013, where it will be held in Canada, with the next ATS scientific meeting due to be held in Victoria, Australia in 2010.