



Neurosurgical Society of Australasia
81st Annual Scientific Meeting
26 - 28 AUGUST 2026
ADELAIDE CONVENTION CENTRE, SA



Wednesday 26 August 2026

8:45AM-
9:00AM

Registrations Opens

Welcome to the Meeting and Presentation by Dignitary

9:00AM-
9:30AM

Chaired by Mitchell Hansen, Santosh Poonnoose, and Lucy Gately

Welcome to the Meeting

Greeting to Spirit of Place

Ms Jakirah Telfer

Invited Opening Address

Professor Dorothy Keefe, CEO of Cancer Australia

Innovations in Glioma Management

9:30AM –
11:00AM

Chaired by Santosh Poonnoose and Lucy Gately

Cell therapy for brain tumours – from bench to bedside

Bryan Choi, Neurosurgeon, United States

Convergent precision strategies for the detection and eradication of infiltrative glioblastoma

John de Groot, Neuro-oncologist, United States

Spatiotemporal multi-omics reveals architectural and therapeutic remodelling in IDH-mutant glioma

Sarah Best, Translational Researcher, Victoria

Advocating increased extent of neurosurgical resection in IDH-mutates glioma: is relapse-free survival associated with residual tumour or initial tumour volume?

Michael Back, Radiation Oncologist, New South Wales

11:00AM –
11:30AM

Morning Tea

Masterclass: Contemporary Neuro-Oncology – Meningioma Learnings and COGNO Glioma Trial Results (Concurrent Session)

11:30AM –
1:00PM

Chaired by Rupal Jayalath and Kylie Jung

Meningiomas: From Unresolved Questions to Surgical Certainty — The National Registry Agenda

Shweta Kedia, Neurosurgeon, India

Nuclear Medicine diagnostic and therapy applications for meningioma

Michelle Nottage, Nuclear Medicine Specialist, South Australia



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Contemporary meningioma management – radiation oncology perspective

Mark Pinkham, Radiation Oncologist, Queensland

MAGMA: Multi-Arm Glioblastoma Australasia phase 3 trial

Craig Gedye, Medical Oncologist, South Australia

Efficacy and safety of cadonilimab in patients with relapsed IDH mutant gliomas in the LUMOS-2 (Low and Anaplastic Grade Glioma Study of Molecular Guided Therapies) precision oncology umbrella study

Hui Gan, Medical Oncologist, Victoria

Advances in Spine Oncology (Concurrent Session)

11:30AM –
1:00PM

Chaired by Kirsty Hamilton and Catherine Cartwright

Video techniques in en bloc resection of primary spinal tumors

Chris Ames, Neurosurgeon, United States

Stereotactic Body Radiotherapy (SBRT) in Spine Oncology: Emerging Paradigms and Multidisciplinary Integration

Peter Gorayski, Radiation Oncologist, South Australia

Intramedullary spinal tumours – how I do it

Jonathon Ball, Neurosurgeon, New South Wales

Application of Intraoperative Optical Coherence Tomography (iOCT) in Surgical Guidance and Prognostic Evaluation of Spinal Cord Gliomas

Guihuai Wang, Neurosurgeon, China

Clinical Characteristics, Surgical Outcomes, and Prognostic Factors of Long-Level Intramedullary Spinal Cord Tumors

Tao Fan, Neurosurgeon, China

1:00PM –
2:00PM

Lunch

New Era – Brain Tumour Diagnostics (Concurrent Session)

2:00PM–
3:15PM

Chaired by Andrew Morokoff and Esther Quick

Adult diffuse gliomas in the era of cIMPACT-NOW and the WHO CNS 6th edition: implications for diagnosis and treatment

Takashi Komori, Neuropathologist, Japan

Implementing Nationwide Precision Genomics for Diagnosis and Trial Access

David Thomas, Neuro-oncologist, South Australia

Decoding brain tumours with nanopore sequencing: early insights from benchmarking a single-assay approach

Tu Nguyen-Dumont, Molecular Geneticist, Victoria



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Plasma ctDNA Liquid Biopsy of IDH1 for Low Grade Glioma Patients taking Safusidenib
Kieran Benn, Victoria

**3:15PM –
3:30PM**

COGNO ASM Group Photo

Unruptured Aneurysms at the Crossroads (Concurrent Session)

**2:00PM–
3:30PM**

Chaired by Ronald Boet and Nova Thani

Vessel Wall Imaging and Aneurysm Morphology: Do We Treat the Small Aneurysm?
Rebecca Scroop, Neuroradiologist, South Australia

Quick-Fire Case Opinions: Treat or Observe and With What Modality?

- Rodney Allan, Neurosurgeon, New South Wales
- Marguerite Harding, Neurosurgeon, South Australia
- Jun Kim, Neurosurgeon, New South Wales
- Leon Lai, Neurosurgeon, Victoria
- Peter Mews, Neurosurgeon, Australian Capital Territory

Reduced Rupture Risk of Unruptured Intracranial Aneurysms in Geriatric Patients: A Single-Centre Prospective Natural History Study

Joyce Antony, SET Trainee, Queensland

Peter Leech Memorial Prize Finalist

Independent Predictors of Intracranial Aneurysm Rupture: A 15-Year Single-Centre Analysis
Dwarkanish Barot, Queensland

Elective Intervention Outcomes for Unruptured Intracranial Aneurysms in Octogenarians (2020–2026)

Ruchika Loomba, Queensland

**3:30PM –
4:00PM**

Afternoon Tea

Debate: Precision Neuro-Oncology: Care for many vs Cure for the future

**4:00PM–
5:00PM**

Moderator Alex Yuile

This debate will explore the ethical and practical tension in neuro-oncology between investing in cutting-edge treatments—such as novel therapeutics, precision medicine, and advanced surgical technologies—and addressing existing inequities in access to care. While innovation offers the potential to improve long-term outcomes for conditions such as glioblastoma and other complex brain tumours, significant disparities persist in timely diagnosis, access to specialist services, clinical trials, and postoperative care, particularly for rural, Indigenous, and socioeconomically disadvantaged populations. The debate will consider how clinicians and health systems can balance the pursuit of future breakthroughs with the responsibility to deliver equitable, high-quality care to patients today.

Team 1: Professor Kate Drummond (Neurosurgeon, VIC), Associate Professor Craig Gedye



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(Medical Oncologist, SA), Dr Cristian Udovicich (Radiation Oncologist, VIC)

Team 2: Associate Professor Andrew Morokoff (Neurosurgeon, VIC), Professor Haryana Dhillon (Psycho-Oncologist, NSW), Speaker to be confirmed.

5:00PM – 6:00PM	Welcome Reception Joint with COGNO
7:00PM – 10:30PM	Conference Dinner Joint with COGNO
11:00PM – 1:00AM	After-party

Thursday 27 August 2026

Advancing Spine Surgery with Expandable Interbody Spacer Technology (Concurrent) Globus Medical Sponsored Session

8:00AM-8:45AM Discover how expandable interbody spacer technology is contributing to the advancement of fusion procedures across a range of surgical approaches. This workshop will provide practical insights into clinical use, and the technical design advantages offered by expandable spacers. Through surgeon experience and case-based discussion, attendees will explore how expandable solutions can contribute to disc height restoration, alignment correction, and surgical efficiency. Learn how these implants may deliver meaningful benefits for both routine and complex spine cases.

Speakers:

- Daniel Hafez (Neurosurgeon, US) speaking **virtually** on posterior applications and approaches for expandable technology.
- Speaker to be confirmed

The advancements in Minimally Invasive Parafascicular Surgery (MIPs) – a system's approach for ICH & Tumours (Concurrent) Stryker Sponsored Session

8:00AM – 8:45AM Minimally Invasive Parafascicular Surgery (MIPS) is reshaping the surgical management of intracerebral haemorrhage and brain tumours through a tissue sparing, systems based approach. Combining atraumatic parafascicular access, tubular retraction, and advanced visualisation, MIPS enables effective lesion evacuation while preserving critical white matter pathways.

Growing clinical evidence supports this paradigm, including ENRICH study data demonstrating improved functional outcomes for selected ICH patients treated with minimally invasive trans sulcal techniques.

As experience and evidence expand, MIPS is redefining the balance between access, safety, and outcomes in complex intracranial disease.

Speakers:

- Andrew Davidson (Neurosurgeon, VIC)



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- Peter Mews (Neurosurgeon, ACT)

8:45AM –
9:00AM

Coffee Break

**Evolving Concepts in Neuro-Oncology
(Concurrent Session)**

9:00AM –
10:30AM

Chaired by Jacqueline McMaster and Xenia Doorenbosch

Evolving Strategies in the Management of Brain Metastases
Bryan Choi, Neurosurgeon, United States

Case Presentations: Preoperative vs Postoperative Radiotherapy for Brain Metastases: Does Timing Matter?

- Speaker to be confirmed
- Ema Knight, Neurosurgeon, South Australia
- Andrew Potter, Radiation Oncologist, South Australia
- Tony Michele, Medical Oncologist, South Australia

Supramarginal resection of Gliomas – the Icarus syndrome?
Krish Sridhar, Neurosurgeon, India

Ferumoxytol-Enhanced MRI, Tumor-Associated Macrophages, and Paradoxical Survival Extension in Glioblastoma with High Macrophage Density
Ahmad Taha, Neurosurgeon, New Zealand

Trauma and Critical Care Update (Concurrent Session)

9:00AM–
10:30AM

Chaired by Nova Thani and Ellison Stephenson

The Use of Rotational Thromboelastometry in Traumatic Brain Injury to Predict Intracranial Haemorrhage Expansion and Mortality: a Four-Year Prospective Single Centre Study
Adam Wells, Neurosurgeon, South Australia

Antiplatelets and external ventricular drain tract haemorrhage: is there a relationship? A systematic review
Anne Sun, Victoria

Impact of Intracranial Pressure Monitoring on 30-Day Mortality in Severe Traumatic Brain Injury: A Retrospective Cohort Study in Kenya
Tendwa Ongas, Pakistan

External Validation of the Baylor Score in a Major Trauma Centre in South Africa
Baraa Abuharbid, New Zealand

General Abstracts (Concurrent Session)



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The effectiveness of prophylactic antibiotics and betadine skin preparation on cranial cutaneous Cutibacterium acnes - A prospective study

Jake Nowicki, SET Trainee, South Australia

Peter Leech Memorial Prize Finalist

Introduction and Integration of navigated transcranial magnetic stimulation with cortico-subcortical mapping and monitoring in glioma surgery – a single centre experience

William Sage, Neurosurgeon, United Kingdom

Survival outcomes after supramaximal versus gross-total resection of glioblastoma: insights from a decade of the prospective BRAIN registry

Aland Goran, Victoria

Reconceptualising Neurosurgical Eloquence: Klingler-Based White Matter Dissection of Major Connectomic Networks

Rachel Park, New South Wales

**10:30AM–
11:00AM**

Morning Tea

Functional Neurosurgery (Concurrent Session)

**11:00AM–
12:30PM**

Chaired by Jacqueline McMaster and Kristian Bulluss

Adaptive Deep Brain Stimulation

Neil Mahant, Neurologist, New South Wales

Diffusion Tensor Imaging in Deep Brain Stimulation

Andrew Zacest, Neurosurgeon, South Australia

A Retrospective comparative study: FGATIR versus CS Tractography targeting for Gamma Knife Thalamotomy in Tremor management

Aryan Raei, Queensland

fMRI-defined somatocognitive action network (SCAN) and its relation with Parkinson's disease

James Wang, Neurosurgeon, China

Restorative neurostimulation of the lumbar multifidus muscles improves pain, function and strength in patients with persistent mechanical low back pain

Adrian Nowitzke, Neurosurgeon, Queensland

Gamma Knife Radiosurgery for Vestibular Schwannoma: The First Australian Outcomes from a Multi-Year Single-Centre Study

Lalitha Sri Polamraju, New South Wales

Advances and Challenges in Paediatric Neurosurgery (Concurrent Session)



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11:00AM-
12:30PM

Chaired by Xenia Doorenbosch and Mitchell Hansen

Neonatal Brain Tumours: Surgical Strategy, Team Barriers & Digital Solutions in India

Shweta Kedia, Neurosurgeon, India

Advancing risk-adapted and biology-informed treatment strategies for paediatric glioma

David Ashley, Neuro-oncologist, Victoria

Adjustment of Flow: Another Option to Improve the Clinical Outcome in Challenging Patients with Hydrocephalus?

Christoph Miethke, Germany

Isolated Bilateral Cerebellar Tonsillar Contusion in Paediatric Head Trauma Without Pre-Existing Chiari Malformation

Michael Heckelmann, Neurosurgeon, New Zealand

12:30PM –
1:30PM

Lunch

**Contemporary Topics in Cerebrovascular Neurosurgery
(Concurrent session)**

1:30PM-
3:30PM

Chaired by Ellison Stephenson and Alistair Jukes

Unbled AVMs: Treatment paradigm

Shweta Kedia, Neurosurgeon, India

Incidence and Risk Factors for In-Stent Stenosis After Endovascular Stenting of Intracerebral Aneurysms

Patrick Donnelly, SET Trainee, Queensland

Peter Leech Memorial Prize Finalist

Proteomic Profile in Aneurysmal Subarachnoid Haemorrhage: relationship to delayed cerebral ischaemia. A Pilot

Jolyn Khoo, SET Trainee, Queensland

Reversal flow with bypass surgery for treating giant dissecting aneurysms in 73 patients.

Shi Xiangen, Neurosurgeon, China

Investigation of the Efficacy of Middle Meningeal Artery Embolization in Chronic Subdural Haematoma and Introduction of a Novel Embolization Grading System with Predictive Value: The Largest Australian Multicentre Retrospective Cohort

Amir Nikouei, New South Wales

The FRED-X Flow Diverter-An Australian Experience

Carlos Chung, Neurosurgeon, Victoria

Beyond Angiographic Success: Cognitive Outcomes Following Elective AComA Aneurysm Treatment

Jorn Van Der Veken, Neurosurgeon, South Australia

Treatment response on Perfusion Computed Tomography predicts 6-month outcome following Delayed Cerebral Ischemia in Aneurysmal Subarachnoid Haemorrhage



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Alexander Vile, Queensland

Using Genetically Modified Induced Pluripotent Cell Derived-Neural Stem Cells (iPSC-NSC) Delivered Intra-arterially as a Therapy for Ischemic Stroke
Sandra Li, Victoria

Spinal Motion Preservation & Spinal Keynote Presentation
(Concurrent Session)

1:30PM-
3:30PM

Chaired by Rumal Jayalath and Ronald Boet

From Frailty Scores to Digital Twins: making adult deformity surgery sustainable
Christopher Ames, Neurosurgeon, United States

Cervical arthroplasty in degenerative disease
Ronald Boet, Neurosurgeon, New Zealand

Experience in access for lumbar arthroplasty and fusions
Adib Khanafer, Vascular Surgeon, New Zealand

Controversies of lumbar arthroplasty vs fusion/ patient selection for each
Catherine Cartwright, Neurosurgeon, South Australia

RESTORE: One-Year Outcomes of Control Crossover from Optimal Medical Management to Restorative Neuro stimulation
Mitchell Hansen, Neurosurgeon, New South Wales

AO Spine Primary Spine Infection Internal and International Validation by the AO Spine Knowledge Forum Trauma & Infection
Barry Kweh, SET Trainee, Victoria

3:30PM –
4:00PM

Afternoon Tea

Multimodal Functional Navigation: Integrating nTMS Fibertracking with Ultrasound and Microscope Guidance (Concurrent)
Brainlab Sponsored Session



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4:00PM-
4:45PM

This session showcases the integration of nTMS fibertracking, ultrasound-guided navigation, and microscope workflows in neurosurgery. Mr. Andrew Gogos will discuss how these modalities complement each other to improve functional mapping, visualization, and intraoperative precision. Attendees will gain practical perspectives on implementing multimodal navigation in clinical practice.

Speaker:

- Andrew Gogos (Neurosurgeon, Victoria)

Precision Radiosurgery in Functional and Vascular Neurosurgery
Icon Cancer Centre Sponsored Session (Concurrent Session)

4:00PM-
4:45PM

Chaired by A/Prof Matt Foote, Radiation Oncologist, Queensland

Contemporary Evidence for GKSRS in Trigeminal Neuralgia and vascular Malformations
Precision stereotactic technologies continue to reshape the management of functional and vascular neurosurgical disorders. This multidisciplinary session will examine contemporary evidence and real-world decision-making for Gamma Knife stereotactic radiosurgery (GKSRS) in trigeminal neuralgia (TN) and cerebral cavernous malformations (CCMs), with comparative discussion of microsurgical, conservative, and emerging minimally invasive alternatives.

Using case-based presentations and expert panel discussion, faculty will review current outcomes data for GKSRS in TN, including efficacy, durability of pain control, dose selection, and risks of sensory disturbance. The vascular segment will focus on radiosurgical management of CCMs, particularly deep-seated and brainstem lesions, comparing haemorrhage risk reduction and neurological outcomes associated with stereotactic radiosurgery, microsurgery, and observation. A debate will then explore scenarios where Laser Interstitial Thermal Therapy (LITT) may offer complementary advantages, particularly for seizure-driven indications, versus those where Gamma Knife delivers optimal precision, safety, and long-term disease control. Through audience polling and faculty discussion, the session aims to clarify patient-selection criteria and referral triggers that align with current evidence and best practice.

This session is designed for neurosurgeons and radiation oncologists seeking to refine multidisciplinary referral strategies and optimise patient outcomes using precision radiosurgical technologies.

Panel and Case Presenters

- Dr Cecelia Gzell (Radiation Oncologist, NSW)
- Dr Neda Haghighi (Radiation Oncologist, VIC)

15 minutes transition

5:00PM –
6:00PM

SET Supervisors Meeting

6:00PM

End of COGNO Meeting

**7:00PM –
10:30PM**

Women in Neurosurgery Dinner



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Friday, 28 August 2026

Governance in Focus: The Future of Neurosurgical Training

8:00AM-
8:45AM

Chaired by Brindha Shivalingam and Kate Drummond

Discussion regarding the future governance and directions of the SET Program in Neurosurgery

8:45AM-
9:00AM

Coffee Break

Eccles Lecture 2026

9:00AM-
9:45AM

Chaired by Mitchell Hansen

Brain Patterns: In Search of the Holy Grail of Neurosciences

Antonio Di Ieva, Neurosurgeon, New South Wales

Formal Award Presentations

**Computational Neurosurgery in Neuro-oncology: Past, Present and Future
Medtronic Sponsored Session (Concurrent Session)**

9:45AM-
10:30AM

This session offers a comprehensive introduction to the emerging discipline of Computational Neurosurgery, with particular emphasis on its applications in neuro-oncology. It explores the integration of computational modelling, fractal and pattern-based analytical frameworks, multi-omics strategies, and advanced artificial and augmented intelligence techniques across the entire neurosurgical pathway, spanning pre-, intra-, and post-operative neuroimaging, digital neuropathology, and translational research.

The session will critically examine current evidence, methodological innovations, and real-world clinical applications, while outlining future directions and the transformative impact of computational and AI-driven approaches on neurosurgical research and neuro-oncological practice.

It will conclude with a focused discussion on the ethical principles that should guide neurosurgeons in the responsible and human-centred use of artificial intelligence in clinical care and research.

Learning Objectives:

1. Understand the foundational principles of computational modelling, fractal- and pattern-based analysis, and artificial intelligence, and how these approaches can be strategically integrated into modern neurosurgical practice.
2. Explore the diverse applications of AI in neuro-oncology, including translational and clinical use cases in brain tumour research and surgery, paediatric neurosurgery, advanced neuroimaging, and integrated molecular-pathological diagnosis.
3. Develop practical insight into the implementation of AI-driven methodologies in neuroimaging, digital neuropathology, and intraoperative neuro-oncological surgery and research, with critical consideration of the associated ethical, legal, and governance frameworks guiding responsible clinical adoption.

Speakers:



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- Antonio Di Ieva, (Neurosurgeon, Sydney, CNS Lab, Macquarie University) speaking on From patterns analysis to Computational Neurosurgery in Neuro-oncology
- Amin Tavallaii, (CNS Lab, Macquarie University) speaking on AI in Brain Tumours: Neuroimaging, and practical cases in paediatric neurosurgery
- Imran Noorani, (CNS Lab, Macquarie University) speaking on AI in Brain Tumours: Digital Neuropathology and integrated diagnosis
- Antonio Di Ieva (Neurosurgeon, Sydney, CNS Lab, Macquarie University) speaking on AI in neuro-oncology: Future perspective and summary of Declaration of Sydney on the ethical use of AI in neurosurgery

The Surgeon Under Scrutiny: Professional Behaviour and Professional Risk (Concurrent Session)

9:45AM-

10:30AM

Chaired by Brindha Shivalingam and Martin Wood

10:30AM-

11:00AM

Morning Tea

Complex Cervical Spine (Concurrent)

11:00AM-

12:30PM

Chaired by Kirsty Hamilton and Catherine Cartwright

700 Three Column Osteotomies Cervical Spine to Sacrum: Lessons learned over a 25 year career
Chris Ames, Neurosurgeon, United States

Upper Cervical Trauma: Case-Based Discussions

- Mitchell Hansen
- Nova Thani
- Carlos Gonzalvo
- Jonathon Ball
- Tanya Yuen

Does the right-sided approach in anterior cervical spine surgery increase the risk of a recurrent laryngeal nerve injury?

Jim Li, New Zealand

Traumatic Cervical and Thoracolumbar Spinal Fractures: Conservative Management and Predictors of Failure in a Tertiary Centre

Kristina Pidd, South Australia

Lateral Skull Base (Concurrent)

11:00AM-

12:30PM

Chaired by Santosh Poonnoose and Andrew Morokoff

Vestibular schwannomas

Roy Thomas Daniel, Neurosurgeon, Switzerland



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Facial nerve reanimation

Sydney Ch'ng, Head and Neck Plastic Surgeon, New South Wales

Chemotherapy for usual tumours

Speaker to be confirmed

The Effect of a Learning Curve on Outcomes of Vestibular Schwannoma Surgery: A Systematic Review

Jacob Deeb, South Australia

Surgical outcomes and longitudinal quality of life after surgical resection of skull base conventional chordoma

Tom Linstrom, Victoria

**12:30PM–
1:30PM**

Lunch

Thoracolumbar Degenerative (Concurrent)

**1:30PM–
3:00PM**

Chaired by Kirsty Hamilton and Ellison Stephenson

Spontaneous CSF leaks

Steve Chryssidis, Neuroradiologist, South Australia

Thoracolumbar: Case-Based Discussions

- Catherine Cartwright
- Matthew McDonald
- Nick Vrodos
- Nova Thani

Integrating Interventional Spine Procedures Within a Governed Surgical Pathway: A Model for Structured Decision-Making in Lumbar Degenerative Disease

Victor Emmanuel Passos Barretto, Neurosurgeon, Brazil

Regional Variation in the Management of Thoracolumbar Burst Fractures in Neurologically Intact Patients

Barry Kweh, SET Trainee, Victoria

Non-Operative Management of Unstable Traumatic Thoracolumbar Fractures (TLICS $\geq$ 4) in Elderly Patients without Neurological Deficit

Daniel You, Victoria

Anterior Skull Base (Concurrent)

**1:30PM–
3:00PM**

Chaired by Alistair Jukes and Rana Dhillon

Cavernous sinus approaches

Roy Thomas Daniel, Neurosurgeon, Switzerland



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Transorbital Approaches

Dinesh Selva, Ophthalmologist, South Australia

Vascular injuries in anterior skull base surgery

Rowan Valentine, Otolaryngology Head and Neck Surgeon, South Australia

Pituitary Surgery in New Zealand: A single neurosurgeon case series of 1,224 operations

Hector Law, New Zealand

Expanded Transorbital Neuroendoscopic Surgery – Quantification and Novel Methodology

Lewis Hains, South Australia

3:00PM

End of Meeting