

Supporting anaesthetic colleagues returning to work after substance use disorder

Date: Monday, May 2nd 2022

Time: 12:15 - 1:15pm

Presenters:



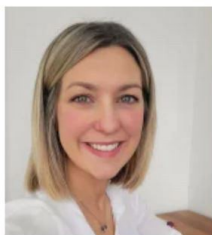
Dr Colin RW Baird
MBChB, MRCP, FRCA, FFPMRCA, FANZCA
Specialist Anaesthetist, Auckland City Hospital.

Bio: Dr Baird began his specialist anaesthesia practice in 2012 in Scotland, moving to New Zealand in 2016.

In a recently published article in the *Anaesthesia and Intensive Care* journal, Dr Baird authored a deeply moving and personal account of his experiences with substance use disorder (SUD) as well as his journey through the intervention process, the fear and vulnerability faced and phased return to anaesthesia practice.¹

Topic: In this session, Dr Baird will share lessons learnt, the impact of a positive and empathetic workplace and the importance of rigorous controls and a robust package of care to protect the patient, the doctor and their colleagues.

Beyond the strong message of hope, encouragement in seeking help and endorsing the importance of collegial relationships, Dr Baird and his colleagues want to convey that re-entry is possible following SUD through a conducive, non-threatening environment supported by governance structure.



Dr Jennifer Schumann
Forensic Toxicology, PhD(Med), Pharmacology BSc(Hons, Monash University)
Associate professor, Monash University.

Bio: Associate Professor Jennifer Schumann is a forensic toxicologist and Head of the Drug Intelligence Unit at the Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine. She has a PhD in Forensic Medicine from Monash University and over 15 years' experience examining the harms associated with drugs to inform Australian public health policy and practice, with a particular focus on addiction and misuse of pharmaceutical and illicit substances. Jennifer has received a number of grants and awards in recognition of her research, including a prestigious 2019 Churchill Fellowship and 2013 Victoria Fellowship. She is Secretary of the Forensic and Clinical Toxicology Association, Editor of *The International Association of Forensic Toxicologists Bulletin*, and reviewer for some of the top ranked journals in substance abuse and legal medicine. She has published extensively in the peer-reviewed literature and has a strong record of collaboration with clinical and forensic researchers. Her research has stimulated public debate, engaged international media and been directly responsible for changes in Australian policy and practice.

Topic: In this session Dr Shuman will discuss "Drug-caused deaths in Australian healthcare practitioners: opportunities for prevention" She will cover her original research and new data, with a focus on risk factors reflecting opportunities for intervention and support, as well as the problem with stigma.



Moderator: Dr Sarah Bowman
FANZCA, MBBS, BMedSci (Hons),
Staff Specialist QEII Hospital,
Senior Lecturer Anaesthetics at The University of Queensland



Reference:

1) Baird, C. Substance use disorder in anaesthetists: A personal perspective. *Anaesth Intensive Care*. 2021; Vol. 49(1) 12–22