

Ladies in Orthopaedics New Zealand Report



LIONZ (Ladies in Orthopaedics New Zealand) is a forum to advocate for and support women in orthopaedics in New Zealand.

Current LIONZ initiatives are focussed on exploring and understanding barriers and impediments for women in pursuing a career in orthopaedics, with an aim to improve gender diversity; as well as supporting and encouraging those demonstrating an interest in orthopaedics. This year LIONZ instigated mentoring for a number of female registrars, with positive feedback and plans are afoot to expand this in 2019.

Despite the recent increase in female trainees, RACS data from the last 10 years shows our training scheme to have the lowest percentage of female trainees. Research exploring the multitude of factors behind the low numbers of females has been undertaken this year by registrars Ruth Tan and Jessica Mowbray.

A very successful hands-on workshop and networking meeting for a select group of female medical students with an interest in orthopaedics was held in Auckland in August, organised by Terri Bidwell and supported by Stryker. Female registrars from Auckland and Northland were instrumental in running the day, showing the students realistic role models, demonstrating sound teaching skills, and speaking candidly to the students about the challenges and rewards of a career in orthopaedics. Feedback from the students has been overwhelmingly positive and future workshops are planned for 2019.

A LIONZ meeting will be held at the ASM in Rotorua to network and plan future events.

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Margy Pohl
Chair LIONZ
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