Dear (ANZCA fellow),

The Cardiac Thoracic Vascular Perfusion Special Interest Group (CTVP-SIG) and the ANZ College of Anaesthetists ANZ facilitates survey research on behalf of the fellows. This study has been assessed by the SIG and deemed appropriate to be sent to you.

You have been selected to participate in a survey to understand the current trends in analgesia management for patients undergoing thoracic surgery and delineate some factors that might be contributing to the methods selected.

Thoracic surgery induces severe postoperative pain and has traditionally depended on thoracic epidural and opioids in the management of pain in the perioperative period. The increasing availability and use of ultrasonography to identify fascial layers has led to the development of several newer techniques for analgesia of the chest wall with promising results. Also, recent studies have hypothesized that opioids may result in an increase in cancer metastases resulting in a trend towards avoiding opioids while utilising more regional techniques.

However, it is not clear to what extent the results of these studies have changed daily clinical practice. Hence, we are organising a survey that would give us an idea about the current standard of managing thoracic surgery patients in Australia & New Zealand. In addition, it would also act as a benchmark for future studies especially with regards to prevalence of opioid-sparing anaesthetic techniques which might become a standard of practice in the future.

Participation in this survey is voluntary. All information is anonymous and confidential. No internet provider addresses are being collected. This survey is estimated to take approximately 8-10 minutes to complete.

Our survey is being sent to all ANZCA fellows currently providing thoracic anaesthesia in Australia and New Zealand and are registered with the CTVP Special Interest Group. This survey has ethics approval from the Queensland Human Research Ethics Committee [insert project number] and is approved and facilitated by the ANZCA Clinical Trials Network.

**Accessing the survey**

Please click on the link below to participate in the survey, or copy and paste into your browser: 

[https://survey.app.uq.edu.au/Thoracic-Anaesthesia-2020-Survey.aspx?forceNew=true&test=true&Variable\_1=1](https://survey.app.uq.edu.au/Thoracic-Anaesthesia-2020-Survey.aspx?&forceNew=true&test=true&Variable_1=1)

Thank you in advance for your invaluable contribution to this research. Please feel free to contact us in the below given contact details if you need any further information with regards to the survey.

With warm regards

Sincerely

Dr. Shakeel Kunju, Dr. Usha Gurunathan & Dr. Michael Busser

The Department of Anaesthesia &Perfusion services

The Prince Charles Hospital, Brisbane, QLD 4032

Ph: +61 7 3139 4000

[Shakeel.kunju@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:Shakeel.kunju@health.qld.gov.au)

[usha.gurunathan@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:usha.gurunathan@health.qld.gov.au)

[Michael.Busser@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:Michael.Busser@health.qld.gov.au)