



Michelle Atkinson

Orthopaedic Spine Surgeon

Sydney, New South Wales, Australia

Dr Michelle Atkinson is one of Sydney's senior adult degenerative spine surgeons. The spine and the diseases which afflict the spine continue to fascinate Dr Atkinson as do the intriguing minds of those scientists and engineers who develop implants and tools to allow surgeons to play. Having completed training through RACS / AOA at centres in rural and metropolitan NSW, Dr Atkinson travelled to the USA and the UK to increase her knowledge and experience in spinal surgery. She continues to travel to Aotearoa/NZ, Asia, Europe and North America to interact with surgical colleagues at meetings and most importantly in their operating theatres and their health care systems. She is active in medical education and mentoring within STEMM programmes for Year 10 high school students, medical students from Macquarie University, at The Northern Beaches Hospital and ANU students at The Sydney Adventist Hospital, prevocational training of hospital doctors and the current surgeons in training. Dr Atkinson is the elected Chair of The RACS NSW State committee, advocating for surgeons and SET trainees within NSW Health and interacting with Secretary Susan Pearce who is driving cultural change within her network, enabling the surgeon's voices to be heard and advancing different approaches for surgeons to operate and patients to receive surgery. She is grateful for the opportunity to present and looks forward to spending the meeting with colleagues, sharing her education and experience and gaining further knowledge and a larger network of spinal colleagues!