



Old Newingtonians' Union
Established 1895

Old Newingtonians' Union Inc.

THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF NEWINGTON COLLEGE ~ ESTABLISHED 1895

ONU CENTENNIAL TRUST – 2019 Awardee

NICHOLAS BLEFARI (ON 2008)

Dr. Nicholas Blefari graduated from Newington College in 2008, ranking 1st in German, German extension and 2-unit mathematics in year 12. He was accepted into Western Sydney University to study medicine, which he completed in 2013. During his junior doctor years, Nicholas worked at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital in Sydney, before moving to Newcastle for surgical training. He is currently training in general surgery at John Hunter Hospital, Newcastle, and hopes to specialise in endocrine surgery.

Throughout his medical training, Nicholas has been actively involved in teaching and surgical research, for which he has a keen passion. Nicholas is a clinical teaching fellow at the University of Newcastle School of Medicine and Public Health, where he is involved in the teaching and examination of medical students across varying stages of their training. Nicholas is a member of the Hunter Surgical Clinical Research Unit and the Hunter Medical Research Institute – dedicated research units which aim to foster and promote clinical research to doctors at all levels of their career. With his supervisor Dr. Christine O'Neill, Nicholas has presented internationally and published work in the area of quality of life in survivors of thyroid cancer. Together, they are in the process of establishing a large multi-centre study to identify factors which impact on patients' quality of life, with the hope to be able to change practice to improve the patient experience.

As part of his dedication to research and further studies, Nicholas also completed a Masters of Surgery through the University of Sydney in 2018. He hopes one day to complete a PhD in the field of outcomes in the treatment and management of thyroid cancer.

Nicholas is also passionate about rural and remote medicine, and how to best deliver care to these areas. He has trained in a variety of rural towns across NSW such as Taree and Dubbo, and his wife is currently a GP in Walgett, NSW. Nicholas is looking forward to training in other rural towns across NSW as part of his surgical training.

200 Stanmore Road
Stanmore NSW 2048
Tel: (02) 9568 9544
Email: alumni@newington.nsw.edu.au

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