
The Royal Australasian College of Surgeons and the Australian Society of Plastic Surgeons collaborate in the delivery of the Surgical Education and Training Program in Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery.

Training Regulation: Research during SET

I. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose and scope of this document is to outline the Australian Board of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery (“**the Board**”) regulations regarding completion of research during the Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery (“**PRS**”) Surgical Education and Training (“**SET**”) Program. Trainees must achieve a minimum of four (4) research points in total to meet the requirements of the PRS SET Program. This document outlines the options available to trainees to satisfy their research requirements.

In addition, all SET 2-5 trainees must attend the annual SET 2-5 Registrars’ Conference. In preparation for this event, trainees must give an oral research presentation at the preceding regional training meeting each year.

2. RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

2.1 Research Activities can be categorised into the following:

- a) Publications
- b) Presentations, including oral and poster presentations
- c) Fulltime research study with enrolment in a higher degree

2.2 All research activities must satisfy the following criteria:

- 2.2.1 The research activity has been undertaken during completion of the PRS SET Program. This excludes any research activity undertaken prior to gaining entry onto the PRS SET Program.
- 2.2.2 The topic of research must be relevant to PRS, as determined by the Regional Training Subcommittee.
- 2.2.3 The research activity has been undertaken in a hospital or institution located in Australia/New Zealand.
- 2.2.4 The Trainee has been primarily responsible for initiating, executing and preparing the body of work submitted.

2.3 Points will only be awarded once for any given topic area investigated by the trainee, i.e. points will not be allocated to a publication and oral presentation on the same topic.

2.4 Points may be awarded for assisting in a research activity as a senior author. A letter from the primary author confirming that the trainee has made a significant contribution in planning, preparation, writing, collation and submission of the report/presentation must be provided.

2.5 The number of points allocated to a research activity is at the absolute discretion of the Board.

3 PUBLICATIONS

- 3.1** Manuscripts accepted for publication may be considered for the allocation of research points. Letters to the editor are not considered publications and are therefore not eligible for submission.
- 3.2** The trainee must be listed as the first author.
- 3.3** The trainee must provide documentation e.g. copy of published paper or copy of manuscript and letter of acceptance by the journal.
- 3.4** Points will be awarded according to the following levels of evidence:
- 3.4.1** Level 1 : Prospective randomised comparative controlled clinical trial
 - 3.4.2** Level 2a: Prospective comparative trial e.g. cohort or case - control
 - 3.4.3** Level 2b: Retrospective comparative trial cohort, outcomes based
 - 3.4.4** Level 3 : Case series or case report
 - 3.4.5** Level 4 : Expert opinion, descriptive studies, committee report
- 3.5** The following journals are acceptable:
- 3.5.1** Aesthetic Plastic Surgery,
 - 3.5.2** Aesthetic Surgery Journal,
 - 3.5.3** Annals of Plastic Surgery,
 - 3.5.4** Archives of Facial Plastic Surgery,
 - 3.5.5** The Breast Journal,
 - 3.5.6** Clinics in Plastic Surgery,
 - 3.5.7** European Journal of Plastic Surgery,
 - 3.5.8** Hand,
 - 3.5.9** Journal of Craniofacial Surgery,
 - 3.5.10** Journal of Hand Surgery (European),
 - 3.5.11** Journal of Hand Surgery (US),
 - 3.5.12** Journal of Plastic Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgery (formerly British Journal of Plastic Surgery),
 - 3.5.13** Journal of Plastic Surgery and Hand Surgery,
 - 3.5.14** Ophthalmic Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery,
 - 3.5.15** Oral and Maxillofacial surgery,
 - 3.5.16** Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery,
 - 3.5.17** Scandinavian Journal of Plastic and Reconstructive and Hand Surgery,
 - 3.5.18** ANZ Journal of Surgery,
 - 3.5.19** Burns,
 - 3.5.20** Journal of Burn Care and Research,
 - 3.5.21** Microsurgery,
 - 3.5.22** Australasian Journal of Plastic Surgery,
 - 3.5.23** Journal of Reconstructive Microsurgery.
- 3.6** Other non-PRS journals may be considered if the journal has a current impact factor of 2.5 or greater.
- 3.7** A maximum of 3 points will be awarded for a research publication.

4 ORAL AND POSTER PRESENTATIONS

- 4.1** Oral and poster presentations accepted at scientific meetings may be considered for the allocation of research points.
- 4.2** The trainee must provide documentation e.g. program or abstract and letter of acceptance from scientific committee.
- 4.3** The following international and national conferences are acceptable:
 - 4.3.1** RACS Annual Scientific Meeting,
 - 4.3.2** ASPS Plastic Surgery Congress,
 - 4.3.3** NZAPS Annual Scientific Meeting,
 - 4.3.4** AHSS,
 - 4.3.5** ASAPS (Australian),
 - 4.3.6** ASAPS (US),
 - 4.3.7** Plastic Surgery The Meeting (USA ASPS),
 - 4.3.8** IPRAS,
 - 4.3.9** Australasian Cleft Lip and Palate Association,
 - 4.3.10** Asian Pacific Craniofacial Association,
 - 4.3.11** Australian & New Zealand Head and Neck Cancer Society,
 - 4.3.12** ANZBA
- 4.4** Oral presentations at other International Scientific Meetings may be submitted for consideration.
- 4.5** A maximum of two (2) points will be awarded for an oral presentation at an international or national conference acceptable to the Board.
- 4.6** A maximum of one (1) point will be awarded for a poster presentation at an international or national conference acceptable to the Board.
- 4.7** One (1) point will be awarded for a PRS paper presentation at a RACS state or New Zealand meeting.

5 REGIONAL ORAL PRESENTATIONS

- 5.1** One point (1) will be awarded for oral presentations at regional training meetings if the presentation is deemed to be of a sufficiently high standard by the Regional Training Chair or their nominee.
- 5.2** Two (2) points will be awarded for oral presentations selected for the SET 2-5 Registrars' Conference.

6. FULLTIME RESEARCH STUDY WITH ENROLMENT IN HIGHER DEGREE

- 6.1** Trainees enrolling in full time research leading toward a recognised qualification (e.g. Master, PhD) to meet their research requirement whilst completing the PRS SET Program, must apply, in writing, for prospective approval from the Board.
- 6.2** The application must provide full details of the research including its relevance to PRS and that the research is under the auspice of a recognised formal entity (such as a university).

6.3 Options include:

6.3.1 Research degrees by coursework/treatise

- a) Mastery of Surgery (coursework)
- b) Master of Clinical Epidemiology
- c) Master of Medicine (coursework)

6.3.2 Research by laboratory investigation

- a) Master of Surgery (research)
- b) Master of Medicine (research)
- c) Master of Philosophy (research)
- d) PhD (research)
- e) MD (research)

6.4 Trainees are required to submit a dissertation or thesis on completion of their study.

6.5 Accredited training time may be awarded for prospectively approved full time research that includes a clinical workload. The Board will only consider clinical participation that meets the following minimum levels of participation:

6.5.1 On call – A minimum of 1 in 5.

6.5.2 Surgical assistance in elective and emergency plastic and reconstructive cases - A minimum of 1 half day operating session per week.

6.5.3 Consulting/outpatients and elective surgery - A minimum of 1 half day per week.

6.6 Participation in an on call roster allied to a recognised SET training post is encouraged.

6.7 Trainees completing a clinical workload must:

6.7.1 have a nominated surgical supervisor

6.7.2 completed a logbook of cases assessed and treated

6.7.3 submit Professional Performance Assessments (PPAs) during the training period they intend to claim

6.7.4 attend registrar teaching sessions

6.7.5 attend the SET 2-5 Registrar's conference, if applicable

6.7.6 present a research hours spreadsheet at the conclusion of the research study.

6.8 Where the Board resolves to accredit clinical training time, time will be awarded on a pro-rata basis and the maximum time credited will be no more than six months.

6.9 Trainees may apply for a period of interruption to their training program to complete full time research study. Refer to Training Regulation: Variations to Training.

6.10 Four (4) points will be awarded for completion of a higher degree in research, prospectively approved by the Board.

7. RECONSIDERATION, REVIEW AND APPEAL

Trainees have options available to challenge a decision about their training. Challenges are governed by the RACS Policy "Reconsideration Review and Appeal", available to download from www.surgeons.org.

8. ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

RACS Policy ETA-SET-011: Research During Surgical Education and Training
Training Regulation: Variations to Training
RACS Policy: Reconsideration, Review and Appeal (ETA-SET-061)