1. PURPOSE AND SCOPE
This policy governs the awarding of the James Ramsay Project Grant. It covers the application and selection criteria as well as the duration, value, frequency and conditions of the Grant.

2. KEYWORDS
Surgery, Grant, Ramsay, Innovation

3. BODY OF POLICY

3.1. Background
Sir John Ramsay was Surgeon Superintendent of the Launceston General Hospital (LGH) between 1896 and 1912, and a co-founder of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS). He was an original signatory in 1927 on its formation.

His advances in surgical technique, medical firsts and hospital administration were second to none. He had the credit for taking the first clinical X-ray at the LGH in 1897. He was a pioneer in intravenous fluid replacement and surgery of the prostate. One of Sir John’s most noted surgical achievements was in 1906 with the resuscitation of an apparently-dead patient by internal cardiac massage through an incision, he was one of the first surgeons in the world to achieve this. He was also possibly the first to attempt the transplant of pancreatic tissue, ten years before the discovery of insulin and two generations before transplant surgery became possible.

Sir John’s son, James Ramsay AO, had a long association with RACS, and donated $60,000 upon the 60th anniversary of RACS in 1987. The money was used to establish a fund within RACS to establish the James Ramsay Fellowship for Provincial Surgeons. When James died in 1996, his wife Mrs Diana Ramsay AO, continued to provide funds towards the Fellowship. In 2014 it was agreed with the James and Diana Ramsay Foundation to change the conditions of the Fellowship to broaden its appeal, raise its profile and increase applications. As a result it was rescoped and relaunched as the James Ramsay Project Grant.

3.2. Eligibility Criteria
Applications are welcome from RACS Fellows and SET Trainees, either from individuals or groups, wishing to undertake clinical or research projects. Examples include, but are not limited to:

- An innovative surgical research project with definite aims and outcomes.
- Funding of innovative project or piece of equipment. Expected outcomes will need to be clearly documented.

Applicants who are either from South Australia or are able to demonstrate a clear benefit to the people of South Australia will be given preference.

3.3. Selection Criteria
The successful project will be chosen for this Grant on the basis of a written application, including Curriculum Vitae of involved project teams (as appropriate), written support from the Administering Institution, two supporting independent written references and subsequent interview, if required.

Applications will be reviewed by a selection panel comprised of the Chair of Australia and New Zealand Scholarship and Grant Committee (ANZSGC), Chair of the...
Research, Audit and Academic Surgery (RAAS) Board, and Chair SA Regional Committee. Assessment will be based upon the project’s likely impact and the expertise of the applicant/project team. The top three applications will also be reviewed and scored by a representative from the James and Diana Ramsay Foundation, whose scores will be included with those of the selection panel for the final ranking prior to any potential interview.

3.4. Value of the Grant

Prospective applicants should refer to the RACS website www.surgeons.org/scholarships for information on the current value of the Grant.

3.5. Funding Source

The award is funded from the income revenue derived from the James Ramsay corpus under the Foundation for Surgery

3.6. Duration of the Grant

The Grant is of up to two years’ duration.

3.7. Frequency of the Grant

The Grant may be awarded biennially, subject to availability of funding and providing there is a suitable applicant.

3.8. Conditions of the Grant

The following conditions are based on the assessed and approved information supplied at the point of application. Any changes from those originally approved by RACS will require prior consent. To obtain this consent, applicants are required to complete an amendment form available from RACS

3.8.1 Project

a) Applicants must undertake the project as approved by RACS for the award.

b) Applications submitted for projects undertaken at an approved institute in Australia or New Zealand will be given first choice. However, consideration will also be given to applicants who wish to undertake all or a proportion of the project in an overseas institution. In these cases applicants must submit a strong justification in their application and supply the names of two supervisors. Written approval from the intended Head of Department where the project is planned to be conducted overseas is also required.

3.8.2 Financial Arrangements

a) It is recommended that the recipient refers to a financial or taxation advisor to ascertain the taxability of the Grant. General information about whether scholarships/fellowships/grants are exempt from income tax is available on the RACS website. Please go to www.surgeons.org/scholarships/ and proceed to the FAQ section.

b) The Grant will be paid to an Administering Institution on behalf of the recipient.

c) The Grant will be paid on receipt of a valid tax invoice provided by the administering institution.

d) Payment of the annual value of the Grant will be made prior to 1 March in the given year.
3.8.3 Additional Scholarships/Fellowships/Awards

a) The recipient, whether they be an individual recipient or a project team, may hold additional non-RACS awards simultaneously for the same project.

b) The recipient must notify RACS immediately on receipt of non-RACS award.

c) Individual members of a research group in receipt of this Grant may also receive an individual concurrent RACS Scholarship or Fellowship.

d) An individual recipient of this Grant may not hold two RACS awards simultaneously.

3.8.4 Reporting

a) The recipient must provide RACS with two reports annually, in the requested format, on the project undertaken. The first will be requested in June for submission by a specified date in July, and the second report will be requested during December for submission by a specified date in January.

b) If the above mentioned reports are not received the recipient will be ineligible for any further financial assistance from RACS and may be required, at the discretion of RACS, to refund the award.

c) Copies of the reports will be sent to ANZSGC and the James and Diana Ramsay Foundation. The ANZSGC reports recommendations, findings and outcomes to the Scholarship Monitoring and Evaluation Committee which oversees the evaluation of the ANZ Scholarship and Grant Program.

d) Recipients should aim to publish the results of their research whenever possible to a peer reviewed journal such as the ANZ Journal of Surgery.

e) Recipients are required to present their research, if appropriate, at the annual meeting of the Surgical Research Society of Australasia (SRS), at least once, during the grant period or within 12 months after the end of the grant period.

f) Recipients are required to complete two Scholarship Evaluation Surveys. The first will be requested upon completion of the award. The second will be requested five years after completion of the award.

g) Applicable recipients are required to complete two Scholarship Evaluation Surveys upon request. The first will be requested upon completion of the Grant. The second will be requested about five years after completion of the Grant.

3.8.5 Ethics Approval

RACS must receive documentary evidence where applicable of ethical approval from the Ethics Committee of the Institution concerned to approve that the project conforms to the general principles set out in the NH&MRC “Statement on Human Experimentation” and/or the “Australian Code of Practice for the Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes”.

3.8.6 Timing of Award

The commencement date for awards is 1 January each year.

3.8.7 Reapplication for the Grant

e) The control of the expenditure will be governed by the normal policies and procedures of the Administering Institution.
a) Recipients can only receive the James Ramsay Project Grant once, except in exceptional circumstances at the discretion of RACS.

b) Unsuccessful applicants can reapply in subsequent years while eligible, until they are successful.

3.8.8 Renewal of the Award

This Grant is renewable for up to two years in duration. Renewal is subject to satisfactory progress as approved by the ANZSGC. This will be determined upon assessment of the midyear scholarship report (see Reporting).

3.8.9 Acknowledgements

a) RACS, the Foundation of Surgery and the James and Diana Ramsay Foundation must be acknowledged in any relevant correspondence, public announcement, advertising, publication, presentation or other material relating to the grant. The Foundation for Surgery logo must be included in all presentations relating to the award.

b) Recipients are required to speak at Foundation for Surgery events if/when invited.

3.8.10 Publications and Patents

RACS must be notified of any publications as soon as practicable after acceptance by the journal, or patents arising from the award together with the results of any research that is to be commercially developed.

3.8.11 Acceptance of Offer

The recipient, their Head of Department and a representative of the Administering Institution must sign the Acceptance Form as acknowledgement of the above conditions and approved research and return it to RACS prior to commencement of the award. Where the recipient is a Project Team, the Chief Investigator must complete any appropriate documentation when required.

3.10 Privacy

Recipients should refer to the RACS Privacy Policy for information on how RACS may collect, store and disclose personal information.

3.11 Termination of the Grant

RACS may, at its discretion for what is considered grave cause, suspend the tenure of an award for such time as is thought fit, or deprive a scholar of his/her award. From the date of either of these decisions, the entitlement to funding and other allowances shall cease.

Upon termination monies already paid and not duly expended shall be refunded to RACS.

3.9. Administering Committee

ANZSGC administers the grant.

4. ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

PRC: Scholarship Program Overview
FRM: Scholarship Program Amendment Form