1. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy governs the awarding of the Foundation for Surgery Professor Philip Walker RACS Vascular Surgery Research Scholarship. It covers the application and selection criteria as well as the duration, value, frequency and conditions of the scholarship.

2. KEYWORDS

Foundation, Foundation for Surgery, Research, Scholarship, Philip Walker, Vascular Surgery, Trainees, SET

3. BODY OF POLICY

3.1. Background

The Foundation for Surgery Professor Philip Walker RACS Vascular Surgery Research Scholarship has been established to encourage research in an area related to vascular surgical disease.

Professor Philip Walker was a Vascular Surgeon, educated in Sydney (Royal Prince Alfred Hospital), Capetown (Groote Schurr) and Stanford University. He moved to Brisbane in 1992 and having held various academic positions from that time was appointed Professor of Clinical Surgery & Head, Academic Discipline of Surgery at the University of Queensland, School of Medicine in 2011. He was a pre-eminent teacher, researcher and clinically active hands-on-surgeon who served as an examiner in Vascular Surgery for RACS. He died as a result of illness whilst still very active in all of his areas of interest. This scholarship is funded by a generous donation from Professor Walker himself.

3.2. Eligibility Criteria

Applications for the scholarship are open to RACS Surgical Trainees who are undertaking a postgraduate higher degree with research that is in an area related to vascular surgical disease.

Applicants to surgical training are also eligible to apply for a scholarship in anticipation of their acceptance into the SET Program. They must be accepted into the SET Program by 1 August in the year prior to the commencement of the scholarship in order to take up the award.

All RACS Scholarships, Fellowships and Grants are conditional upon the applicant being a permanent resident or citizen of Australia or New Zealand.

3.3. Selection Criteria

Applicants will be assessed on their academic record, postgraduate training, research experience, publication history and reputation of the institution where the research is to be undertaken. These criteria will be assessed from information provided in the application, two supporting references and accompanying Curriculum Vitae.

The candidate will also be assessed on their initiative in attempting to source other funding. The scholarship will be awarded on the basis of the applicant’s expected contribution into research related to vascular surgical disease.

3.4. Value of the Scholarship

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

The scholarship is for a period of 12 months.

3.6. Frequency of the Scholarship

The scholarship is to be awarded annually, subject to availability of funding and providing there is a worthy applicant.

3.7. Conditions of the Scholarship

3.7.1. Research Program

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

a) Scholars must undertake the research study as approved by RACS for the award.

b) Written confirmation that he/she is willing to accept the role of supervisor of the named research study is required from the proposed supervisor.

c) Preference will be given to scholars who will undertake the research study at an approved institute in Australia or New Zealand. However, consideration will be given to scholars who wish to undertake all or a proportion of their research in an overseas institution. In these cases scholars must submit a strong justification in their application and supply the names of two supervisors. One intended supervisor of their research must be situated in an approved institute in Australia or New Zealand. Written approval from the intended Head of Department where the research is planned to be conducted overseas is also required.

3.7.2. Financial Arrangements

a) It is recommended that the scholar refer to his/her financial or taxation advisor to ascertain the taxability of the award. General information about whether scholarships are exempt from income tax is available on the RACS Scholarship website. Please go to www.surgeons.org/scholarships/ and proceed to the FAQ section.

b) The scholarship will be paid to an administering institution on behalf of the scholar. Payment of the annual value of the award will be made in one instalment prior to 1 March in the given year. The control of the expenditure will be governed by the normal policies and procedures of the administering institution.

c) Award funds will only be paid on receipt of a valid tax invoice provided by the administering institution.

3.7.3. Additional Scholarship/Fellowships/Awards

Scholars may not hold two RACS Scholarships simultaneously.
3.7.4. Reporting

a) The payment of the scholarship is conditional upon the recipient providing RACS with a written report at the end of the scholarship. The report will be requested during December in the given year for submission by a specified date in January the following year. If the above mentioned report is not received the recipient will be ineligible for any further financial assistance from RACS and may be required to refund the value of the award.

b) A copy of the report will be forwarded to a representative of the benefactor.

c) Applicants must be prepared to provide an article for publication in Surgical News

d) Scholars should submit the results of their research to a peer-reviewed journal eg. ANZ Journal of Surgery or other as applicable.

e) Scholars are required to present their research at the annual meeting of the Surgical Research Society of Australasia, at least once, during the scholarship period or within 12 months after the end of the scholarship period.

f) Scholars 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.

3.7.5. Ethics Approval

RACS must receive documentary evidence where applicable of ethical approval from the Ethics Committee of the Institution concerned to confirm 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”.

3.7.6. Reapplication for the Scholarship

Applicants can only receive the Foundation for Surgery Professor Philip Walker RACS Vascular Surgery Research Scholarship once. Unsuccessful applicants can reapply in subsequent years through the normal application channels and observing the advertised application deadlines and formats in competition with all applications.

3.7.7. Acknowledgements

The RACS Foundation for Surgery and Professor Philip Walker are to be acknowledged in any relevant correspondence, public announcement, advertising, publication or other material relating to the award. The Foundation logo must be included in all presentations relating to the Scholarship, including those made at the ASC.

Recipients are required to speak at Foundation for Surgery dinners when invited.

3.7.8. 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.
### 3.7.9. Privacy

RACS takes reasonable steps to protect the information it holds from misuse or loss and from unauthorized access, modification or disclosure. The scholar has the right to access his or her personal information and to have it corrected if inaccurate, incomplete or out of date.

### 3.7.10. Termination of the Scholarship

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

### 3.7.11. Timing of Award

The commencement date for awards is 1 January each year.

### 3.7.12. Acceptance of Offer

The scholar, their Head of Department and a representative of their administering institution must sign the Acceptance Form as acknowledgement of the above conditions and approved research project in vascular surgery, and return it to RACS prior to commencement of the scholarship.

### 3.8. Access

This policy may be accessed by the general public, RACS and staff.

### 3.9. Communication

Scholarship recipients will be notified of the policy or any changes to the policy that impact them by email. Other stakeholders are encouraged to check the RACS website on a regular basis to keep up to date with policy changes.

### 3.10. Administering Committee

The Australia and New Zealand Scholarship and Grant Committee administers the scholarship.

### 4. ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

PRC: Research Scholarships - General

| Approver | ANZSGC |
| Authoriser | Council |