1. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy governs the awarding of the Stuart Morson Scholarship in Neurosurgery. It covers the application and selection criteria as well as the duration, value, frequency and conditions of the Scholarship.

2. KEYWORDS

Stuart, Morson, neurosurgery, scholarship

3. BODY OF POLICY

3.1. Background

The Stuart Morson Scholarship in Neurosurgery was established following a donation by Mrs Elisabeth Morson in memory of her late husband, Stuart Morson, who was a Sydney based neurosurgeon with a special interest in paediatric neurosurgery. The Scholarship is designed to assist young neurosurgeons to travel overseas and further their neurosurgical studies by undertaking research or further training.

3.2. Eligibility Criteria

Applications for the Scholarship are open to young neurosurgeons, either Trainees or those who have obtained Fellowship in the previous five years. The Scholarship is also open to exceptional young surgeons who are registered to practice neurosurgery in Australia or New Zealand, but are not Fellows of the College. From time to time, the Scholarship may be applied to assist overseas neurosurgeons to spend time in Australia or New Zealand and further their training and/or research in neurosurgery. Overseas applicants cannot have commenced travel prior to applying for the Scholarship.

3.3. Selection Criteria

The Scholarship recipient will be chosen on the basis of his/her written application, Curriculum Vitae and supporting references.

Research scholarship applicants will be ranked by the members of the executive committee of the Neurosurgical Society of Australasia based upon the following criteria

a) The Scholarship is intended for a young neurosurgeon (less than 5 years post FRACS) or neurosurgical Trainee.

b) Overseas neurosurgeons wishing to come to Australia or New Zealand for further training can only be considered prior to commencing their travel and cannot be considered once they have arrived in Australia or New Zealand to take up a position.

c) The scholarship is for the applicant’s further neurosurgical training or for research. They will be given equal weighting in the assessment process.

d) The overall deciding factor will be that the scholar should by his/her scholarship, improve Australasian neurosurgery and that the scholarship should benefit the scholar’s educational and research abilities.
3.4. **Value of the Travel Grant**

The scholarship is designed to assist the recipient to meet the costs of undertaking further training and/or research work in neurosurgery overseas. The scholarship monies may be used to meet travel, accommodation, sustenance and/or research material costs. Prospective applicants should refer to the College website at [www.surgeons.org](http://www.surgeons.org) for information on the current value of the Scholarship.

3.5. **Duration of the Travel Grant**

The scholarship is of six months duration. The minimum acceptable program is for a total duration of three months.

3.6. **Frequency of the Travel Grant**

The scholarship is to be awarded annually, subject to the bequest income available for the scholarship in any given year being sufficient and providing there is a worthy applicant who satisfies all the requirements.

3.7. **Conditions of the Travel Grant**

3.7.1. **Research or Training Program**

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

Scholars must undertake the travel/research program as approved by the College for the award. Travel must have commenced before the end of the scholarship program year for which the award was offered.

3.7.2. **Financial Arrangements**

   a) The scholar must refer to his/her financial or taxation advisor to ascertain the taxability of the stipend. General information about whether scholarships/fellowships are exempt from income tax is available on the College website. Please go to [www.surgeons.org/scholarships/](http://www.surgeons.org/scholarships/) and proceed to the FAQ section.

   b) Payment of the award will be made in one instalment, prior to 1 March in the given year.

   c) Award funds will only be paid on receipt of a valid tax invoice.

3.7.3. **Additional Scholarships/Fellowships/Awards and salary**

   a) The Morson Scholar may receive an additional award from an external body, provided that the additional award allows the Scholar to extend the time spent in research or further training.

   b) The Morson Scholar must notify the College immediately on receipt of an award other than the Morson Scholarship award.

   c) Scholars may not hold two College awards simultaneously.
d) The Morson Scholar may be in receipt of a salary whilst he/she is also in receipt of the Scholarship but that salary shall not be such that the research/training could have taken place without the Scholarship.

3.7.4. Reporting

a) The payment of the award is conditional upon receipt of a report in the requested format to the College on the research/travel undertaken. This report must be received within one month of completing the travel, or prior to 1 December of the given year, whichever is sooner. If such report is not received, the recipient will be ineligible for any further financial assistance from the College and may be required to reimburse the College for the award paid. A copy of this report is forwarded to Mrs Elisabeth Morson.

b) Scholars must prepare and publish an article in Surgical News on the completion of their award.

3.7.5. Timing of Scholarship

The commencement date for the awards must be after the closing date for applications in the year of application. The commencement date must be as stipulated in the application.

3.7.6. Renewal of Award

This award is of six months duration and cannot be renewed.

3.7.7. Acknowledgements

The Scholarship is to be acknowledged in any relevant correspondence, public announcement, advertising, publication or other material relating to the award.

3.7.8. Publications and Patents

The College 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

The college 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 a Scholarship

The College 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 stipend and other allowances shall cease.
3.7.11. **Acceptance of Offer**

Scholars must sign the Acceptance Form as acknowledgement of the above conditions and approved research and return it to the College prior to commencement of the award.

3.8. **Access**

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

3.9. **Communication**

Fellowship 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 College website on a regular basis to keep up to date with policy changes.

3.10. **Administering Committee**

The Board of Surgical Research administers the Scholarship.

**4. ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS**

- PRC: Research Scholarships - General
- Scholarship Process map
- FRM: College Travel Scholarships, Fellowships and Grants Application