1. PURPOSE AND SCOPE
This policy governs the awarding of the Research Scholarship in Military Surgery. It covers the application and selection criteria as well as the duration, value, frequency and conditions of the Scholarship.

2. KEYWORDS
Research, Scholarship, Military, Surgery

3. BODY OF POLICY
3.1. Background
The Scholarship is offered through the Military Section of the College and is part of an International Surgical Exchange with the United States of America. Funded by the American Department of Defense, it has been established for the scholarship recipient to work on Combat Casualty Care Resuscitation Research with the Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences (USUHS), Maryland.

3.2. Eligibility Criteria
To be eligible, applicants must be either a Fellow of the College or a trainee in the Surgical Education and Training (SET) Program at the time of application. They must also be a permanent resident of and hold Australian or New Zealand citizenship. Preference will be given to serving members of the Australian Defence Force.

Applicants are eligible for a maximum of four years of RACS research scholarship funding. This can be made up of multiple College research scholarships and does not have to be taken consecutively.

3.3. Selection Criteria
The Executive of the Military Section will assess and select the successful candidate on the basis of his/her written application, curriculum vitae and supporting references.

3.4. Value of the Scholarship
A stipend is paid to the recipient by the American Department of Defense. Prospective applicants should refer to the College website www.surgeons.org for information on the current value of the Scholarship.

3.5. Duration of the Scholarship
The scholarship is of twelve months duration.

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 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.

a) The scholar is encouraged to enrol in a Masters or Doctorate at USUHS.

b) The scholar will examine “Combat Casualty Care Resuscitation Research” under the supervision of a nominated representative from USUHS.

c) Scholars must undertake the research study at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, Bethesda, Maryland, USA.

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/ and then proceed to the FAQ section.

b) The scholarship stipend will be paid by the USUHS.

3.7.3. Reporting

a) Upon return to Australia, the scholar must supply a report to the College in the requested format on the research undertaken.

b) The scholar must present their research at the Military Section Free Paper Session at the next College Annual Scientific Congress (ASC) in May.

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

d) 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.

e) 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.

3.7.4. Timing of Award

The scholarship commences in January. The recipient should liaise with the USUHS to determine an agreed start date.

3.7.5. Acknowledgements

The Scholarship is to be acknowledged in any relevant correspondence, public announcement, advertising, publication or other material relating to the award. The RACS coat of arms must be included in all presentations relating to the award, including those made at the ASC.
3.7.6. 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.

3.7.7. 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.

3.7.8. Acceptance of Offer
The scholar 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 to policy
This policy may be accessed by the general public, College 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 College website on a regular basis to keep up to date with policy changes.

3.10. Administering Committee
The Scholarship is administered by the Board of Surgical Research.

4. ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS
PRC: Research Scholarships - General
Scholarship Process map
FRM: College Research Scholarships, Fellowships and Grants Application

Approver: CEO
Authoriser: Council