FRANZCOG Research Training Requirement Policy

Purpose and Scope

The purpose of this policy is to outline the research requirements for the FRANZCOG training program.

Research Points-based System

The Research Points-based System is mandatory for all Trainees who have commenced training after December 1st, 2017. Trainees must complete a minimum of 3 points of research activity by the end of 52 weeks Advanced Time in Training (ATIT) to meet the research requirements of the FRANZCOG training program.

Trainees who commenced training prior to December 1st 2017 may "opt in" to the Points-based system even if they have previously submitted a Research Proposal.

Trainees completing the **Academic Stream** must adhere to Research deadlines and submit:

- Electronic copy of the Thesis abstract
- Certified copy of academic record OR alternative official correspondence from institution certifying successful completion of the PhD
- Documentation of HREC approval obtained for human research submissions

<u>For all submissions</u> - a review time of ~4-6 weeks should be considered with regards to meeting deadlines

Research Points-based System

Research Activity Points:

- Attendance at the RANZCOG Research Toolkit. (1 POINT) *note only one workshop point can be accrued towards the 3-point research study requirement.*
- First author poster presentation of an acceptable study design*, <u>during training</u>, accepted at a RANZCOG Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) or Regional Scientific Meeting (RSM) or National/International Medical Conference. (2 POINTS)
- First author oral presentation of an acceptable study design*, <u>during training or within 2 years prior to commencing training</u>, accepted by a RANZCOG ASM or RSM or National/International Medical Conference. (2 POINTS)
- First author publication of an acceptable study design*, <u>during training or within 2 years prior to commencing training</u>, **accepted** by a medical journal indexed on Medline. To qualify in this section, the research must NOT be published exclusively in any of the following journal sections (or equivalent thereof): correspondence, discussion papers, editorials, or letters to the editor. (3 POINTS)
- Completion of an MPhil (Research) or PhD program in any discipline, provided candidature has been confirmed following submission and assessment of a significant piece of written work and oral presentation. (3 POINTS)

Recognition of Prior Learning:

- A PhD conferred in any discipline (3 POINTS)
- Master's by research conferred in any discipline provided it is associated with an approved first author publication in an Medline journal or an approved oral presentation <u>within 2 years prior to commencing FRANZCOG training</u>. (3 POINTS)
- First author publication of an acceptable study design* in Health Sciences, accepted by a medical journal indexed on Medline, <u>within 2 years prior to commencing FRANZCOG training</u>. (3 POINTS)

Study Design* – Eligibility Criteria

Prospective Research Study:
- Laboratory research
- Randomised control trial
- Population survey
- Other prospective research with:
  - o A stated research hypothesis
  - o Research Ethics Committee constituted approval.

Retrospective Research Study:
- A Retrospective research study drawn from a hospital or clinic database will be accepted if it meets the following 3 criteria.
  1) Research Ethics Committee approval
  2) A stated research hypothesis
  3) A statement as to how the research had potential implications for clinical practice outside of the current research setting
- A Retrospective Case-Control or Cohort Study

Review:
- Cochrane Review - first author publication in Cochrane Library with Cochrane number.
- Systematic Review - first author publication which meets PRISMA guidelines published in a medical journal indexed in Medline and must have a PROSPERO number.

<u>Ineligible Study Designs:</u>

The following do not meet the requirements of the research study and will not be accepted:
- Case reports or case studies/series
- Study protocols
- Book chapters
- Narrative literature review
- Clinical audit (that does not meet one of the categories of an acceptable study design)

Research Project Submissions

Trainees who commenced training prior to December 1st, 2017 and who have not opted to complete the Research Points-based System, are required to undertake a Research Project. Trainees undertaking the Research Project must get prospective approval obtained from the Research Assessment Subcommittee (RAS) by the end of 104 weeks in Basic training and submit the results of the study for review by a RAS Assessor prior to the end of 52 weeks Advanced Time in Training (ATIT) to meet the research requirements of the FRANZCOG training program.

For trainees who have commenced prior to December 2017 and who have NOT chosen to opt into the "Research Points-based System" the following apply:

- A Research Proposal in the health sciences must be submitted to the RAS by the end of 104 weeks in Basic training.
- Major amendments to the approved research proposal must be prospectively approved by the RAS.
- Trainees are required to submit the final proposal that meets satisfactory completion by the end of 52 weeks in Advanced training.
- The format of the research study proposal must meet the eligible study designs criteria.
- The format of the Research Project must meet one of the following criteria to be approved as "satisfactorily met" by the RAS:
    o First author Report accepted for publication in a medical journal indexed on Medline
    o First author Cochrane Systematic Review accepted for publication
    o First author Oral Presentation at a RANZCOG Scientific Meeting or National / International Medical Conference & substantiating Written Report
    o First author Poster Presentation at a RANZCOG Scientific Meeting or National / International Medical Conference & substantiating Written Report
    o A research report written in a publishable format
    o Report based on a question / hypothesis and answered through the conduct of a local audit for assessment of the relevant College committee
        ▪ The research report must contain a clearly stated hypothesis, outline an appropriate study design, use appropriate methods of statistical analysis, and demonstrate that a relevant, critical literature review has been undertaken
    o Case Report accepted for publication in a medical journal indexed on Medline with trainee listed as first author

Recognition of Prior Research

The following may be approved as meeting the requirement of satisfactory completion of the Research Project requirement:

- A formal higher research degree qualification; or
- A successfully complete honours (by research) year in the biomedical sciences.

Noting that any prior first author publication in English in a peer reviewed journal devoted to a branch of the biomedical sciences may be considered for meeting the requirement. Applications must be submitted to the RAS for assessment and approval.

Research Assessment:

RANZCOG College staff will approve Attendance at the RANZCOG Research Toolkit and make the initial assessment of submissions with reference to the FRANZCOG Research Training Requirement Policy, and associated forms prior to allocation to a Research Assessor.

The assigned Research Assessor will assess the suitability of research proposals and assess the satisfactory completion of the research project and points-based submissions.

Discretionary issues regarding research study assessment will be referred to the Dean of Education or delegate and Chair or deputy Chair of the Research Assessment Subcommittee.

Version	Date of Version	Pages revised / Brief Explanation of Revision
v1.1	October/2021	Initiation of the Policy
v2.1	July / 2022	Minor amendment to wording
v3.1	December / 2022	Addition of review time with regards to submission deadline. Minor amendments to wording to clarify intent and improve document flow

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