

Portfolio:	CEO and Governance	Ref. No.	POL-1148
Department:	President & Council Support		
Title:	The Sir John Ramsay Award – Memorial Lecture and Medal for “Excellence in Surgical Innovation”		

1. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy governs the Sir John Ramsay Memorial Lecture and Medal presented at the Annual Scientific Congress. It covers the selection, frequency, obligations, and conditions of the Award.

2. KEYWORDS

Awards Committee, Awards, lecture, medal, Annual Scientific Congress, Surgical Innovation

3. BODY OF POLICY

3.1. Background

- 3.1.1 The Sir John Ramsay Award - Memorial Lecture and Medal was initiated by the James and Diana Ramsay Foundation and the Launceston General Hospital Historical Society and is funded from the James Ramsay Research Grant.

The Award supports a visiting lecturer to the ASC to present a lecture in a General Surgery Section.

- 3.1.2 Sir John Ramsay was Surgeon Superintendent of the Launceston General Hospital. (LGH) between 1896 and 1912, and as a RACS co-founder, was an original signatory on its formation in 1927. His advances in surgical technique, medical firsts and hospital administration were second to none.

Sir John was a pioneer in intravenous fluid replacement and surgery of the prostate and is known for a number of firsts: taking the first clinical X-ray at the LGH in 1897, being one of the first surgeons in the world to resuscitate an apparently dead patient by internal cardiac massage through an incision, and he was 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.

Today, Sir John still holds a prominent presence at the LGH with a medical library named in his honour, which holds duplicate copies of all of his original handwritten surgical notes.

- 3.1.3 The Award incorporates a lecture and medal to commemorate Sir John Ramsay and is to be awarded annually to a prominent surgeon at the RACS ASC as a visiting lecturer.

3.2. Presentation and Frequency

- 3.2.1 The lecture normally will be presented annually at the Annual Scientific Congress (ASC) at the appropriate event at the ASC, with the medal being presented by the President (or his/her nominee) afterwards.

3.3. Criteria for the Award

The Sir John Ramsay Award is awarded to a person who has made an achievement in surgical innovation.

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3.4. Nominations

- 3.4.1 Nominations for the Sir John Ramsay Award are considered by a selection committee consisting of :
- The ASC Convenor for the year
 - The Chair of the Tasmanian State Committee
 - The Chair of the AoNZ National Committee
 - A representative from the James and Diana Ramsay Foundation
- 3.4.2 The selection committee will call for nominations to be considered. Two years lead time is to be provided, with a minimum of 12 months’ notice.
- 3.4.3 The funding will consist of an annual sum to cover or contribute to expenses associated with the lecture as follows:
- An amount towards the cost of airfare to the ASC (please see item **3.6 – Value**)
 - Registration at the ASC
 - A maximum of 3 nights’ accommodation at the ASC
 - Attendance for the recipient and partner to attend the conference banquet
 - Striking of medal

These costs will be confirmed annually with the Foundation for Surgery Committee at the time of nomination.

Once the funding is approved, the selection committee recommends to the Awards Committee to whom the award should be awarded or if there should be no award in that year.

- 3.2.1 A nominee for the award, supporting information and confirmation of available funding are then submitted by the selection committee to be determined to the Chair of the Awards Committee at least six (6) weeks prior to an Awards Committee meeting for recommendation to Council for consideration and approval.

Nominations shall contain biographical details, information on appointments, membership of learned societies (and office held), and a list of publications or a CV.

Each nomination requires the nominee to address the criteria and substantiate the recommendation with a demonstrable reason for the award. Nominations without this additional background information will be returned to the selection Committee for further documentation.

- 3.2.2 After approval by the Awards Committee, the name of the recommended nominee will be presented to Council for final approval. Approval by three quarters of Councillors present and voting at the Council Meeting must be received.

3.5. The Award

The award is in the form of a bronze medal.

Approved By:	CEO	Original Issue:	October 2024
Document Owner:	Council Secretary	Version:	2
		Approval Date:	February 2026
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3.6. Value

The James Ramsay Research Grant funds the memorial lecture and medal and provides:

- up to AU \$1,000 towards travel expenses.
- the cost of registration to the ASC, accommodation at the ASC and complimentary tickets to the successful recipient and their partner to the ASC banquet

3.7. Frequency

The award is awarded annually providing that there is a worthy recipient nominated and approved.

4. ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

Awards Committee supporting procedure

Approver: Awards Committee

Authoriser: Council