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| <b>Division:</b>   | <b>Fellowship Engagement</b>                                       | <b>Ref. No.</b> | <b>TOR-3095</b> |
| <b>Department:</b> | <b>Academic Surgery</b>  |                 |                 |
| <b>Title:</b>      | <b>Clinical Trials Network Australia New Zealand Working Party</b> |                 |                 |

## 1. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

These terms of reference establish the Clinical Trials Network ANZ (CTANZ) Working Party

The aims of this Working Party are

- i) to establish a trainee led clinical trials network in Australia and New Zealand,
- ii) to integrate CTANZ research into SET thereby providing trainees with a more meaningful and impactful experience in research, and
- iii) promote and support surgical leadership in clinical research and academic surgery.

## 2. KEYWORDS

Clinical Trials Network ANZ (CTANZ), trainee development in clinical and scientific research, trainee lead collaborative, multi-centre clinical trials, evidence based surgical practice, improved surgical outcomes.

## 3. BODY OF POLICY

### 3.1. Background

In 2017 the Founding Chair of CTANZ Working Group presented a New Key Initiative to the Executive Committee of Council entitled “*Establishing a Trainee Lead Clinical Trials Network in Australia and New Zealand (CTANZ)*” modelled on the highly successful United Kingdom Clinical Trials Network that was established in 2011.

The hallmarks of the UK model are that surgical trainees are the principal investigators in multi-centre prospective clinical trials. Most importantly, they are very well supported by a Director based within the RCS, Surgical Specialty Leads and designated Surgical Trials Centres with expertise in clinical design and analysis, and receive assistance with targeted fundraising.

This initiative has enhanced significantly evidence based surgical practice and addressed criticism from the scientific community regarding the poor quality of research and the paucity of randomised controlled clinical trials within Surgical disciplines.

The main objective of CTANZ is to engage trainees in high quality research thus equipping them with the scientific literacy skills fundamental to becoming research active future consultants

### 3.2. Composition

3.2.1 The Working Party will consist of the following

- Clinical Director, CTANZ
- Surgical Director, Research and Evaluation
- Nominee, RACS Academic Surgery Committee

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- Nominee, RACSTA
- Director Clinical Trials UK
- 2 Surgical Specialty Lead Representative
- 2 Trainee Lead Representatives
- Australasian Students' Surgical Association (ASSA) Representative
- Co-opted members (see 3.2.2)

**3.2.2. Co-opted and invited attendance**

- Co-opted and invited attendance as deemed necessary will be at the discretion of the Clinical Director, CTANZ. Co-opted and invited attendance will be for a defined period as determined by the Clinical Director, CTANZ

**3.2.3. In Attendance**

- General Manager Research, Audit and Academic Surgery
- Manager Academic Surgery
- Coordinator, CTANZ and Academic Surgery

**3.3. Tenure and Method of Appointment**

It is expected that Trainee Lead Representatives serve for a minimum period of 12 months

**3.4. Duties and Responsibilities**

- 3.4.1.** Appoint RACSTA endorsed surgical and trainee specialty leads
- 3.4.2.** Identify and foster the development of training networks
- 3.4.3.** Appoint an Advisory Committee
- 3.4.4.** In cooperation with trainee leads identify opportunities for clinical trials, including randomized controlled trials
- 3.4.5.** Identify and engage Clinical Trials Centres that will support the work of CTANZ
- 3.4.6.** Promote CTANZ at the November Joint Academic Surgery Meetings, and other relevant meetings
- 3.4.7.** Engage with specialty training boards to ensure that participation in CTANZ trials is meaningfully recognized within the research requirement of SET
- 3.4.8.** Continue discussions with major government funding bodies; e.g. NHMRC, MRFF and HRC, to secure sustainable funding support for CTANZ projects

**3.5. Voting Rights**

**3.5.1 Working Party membership with full voting rights comprises**

- Clinical Director, CTANZ
- Surgical Director, Research and Evaluation

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- Nominee, RACS Academic Surgery Committee
- Nominee, RACSTA
- Director Clinical Trials UK
- 2 Surgical Specialty Lead Representative
- 2 Trainee Lead Representatives
- Australasian Students' Surgical Association (ASSA) Representative

**3.5.2.** Each of the 10 members on the Working Party is entitled to one vote

### **3.6. Frequency of Meetings**

The Working Party will meet every three months or as required to progress initiatives that have come about during each meeting/teleconference.

### **3.7. Quorum**

The quorum will be 60% of the Working Party members

### **3.8. Accountability and Reporting Structure**

**The CTANZ Working Party will report through the Academic Surgery Committee to the Research and Academic Surgery Committee (RASC) and the Professional Development and Standards Board (PDSB) to Council.**

## **4. ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS**

No documents associated with this policy.

**Approver** RASC  
**Authoriser** PDSB

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