1. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy governs the awarding of the Aziz Hamza Rural Surgery Scholarship. It covers the application and selection criteria as well as the duration, value, frequency and conditions of the scholarship.

2. KEYWORDS

Poate, Plastic, Reconstructive, Travel, Grant

3. BODY OF POLICY

3.1. Background

The Aziz Hamza Rural Surgery Scholarship was established through the Foundation for Surgery by Dr Saud Hamza to honour the legacy of his father, Professor Aziz Hamza. Professor Hamza (1 July 1937 – 31 May 2019) was the professor of English Literature at the College of Education, University of Baghdad, Iraq.

Professor Hamza completed his bachelor’s degree in English Literature from the University of Baghdad in 1959 after which he received a scholarship to travel to the United States to complete a Diploma in Teaching English Language to Overseas Students from the English Language Institute at the University of Michigan in 1960. He then completed a master’s degree in English Literature from Indiana University in 1961. Professor Hamza completed his PhD in English Literature from Martin Luther-King university in Germany and was granted a full professor title from the University of Baghdad in 1999. During his 60 year-long academic career, Professor Hamza was involved in the development of the English Language and Literature Departments in major universities in Iraq, Saudi Arabia and Jordan, chaired the National Committee for English Language and Literature curriculum in Iraq and Saudi Arabia and reformed the higher English Literature studies in the region. He supervised dozens of PhD and master’s degrees and had dozens of publications.

3.2. Objective

The objective of this award is to assist in delivering quality surgical care to people in remote and regional Australia and New Zealand.

3.3. Eligibility Criteria

Applications for scholarships are open to RACS Fellows who are in the first ten years of their Fellowship and Surgical Trainees who wish to attend RACS professional development activities, meetings, conferences or workshops with the intention of improving the delivery of surgical services in remote and regional Australia and New Zealand. Preference will be given to those applicants who are currently located in or originally from regional Australia or New Zealand.

SET applicants are also eligible to apply for this scholarship in anticipation of their acceptance into the SET Program. They must be accepted into the SET Program by
November in the year prior to the commencement of the scholarship in order to take up the award.

This award is conditional upon the applicant being a permanent resident or citizen of Australia or New Zealand.

3.4. Selection Criteria

The applicant will be assessed for their abilities and experience, the merit of the proposed travel plan and the potential benefits to the individual, other surgeons and the community from the travel. Applicants will be ranked by two Members of the Australia and New Zealand Scholarship and Grant Committee (ANZSGC) based upon information provided in the application, supporting references and accompanying Curriculum Vitae.

3.5. Value of the Grant

The value of the award is in Australian dollars. Prospective applicants should refer to the RACS website [www.surgeons.org/scholarships](http://www.surgeons.org/scholarships) for information on the current value of the award.

3.6. Funding Source

The award is funded from the income revenue derived from the Aziz Hamza Rural Surgery Scholarship corpus under the Foundation for Surgery.

3.7. Duration of the Grant

The award has a tenure of one year.

3.8. Frequency of the Grant

The award is to be offered annually subject to availability of funding and providing there is a worthy applicant.

3.9. Conditions of the Grant

The following conditions are based on the assessed and approved information supplied at the point of application. Any changes from those originally approved by RACS will require prior consent. To obtain this consent scholars are required to complete an amendment form available from RACS.

3.9.1 Travel Program

- a) Recipients must undertake the travel program as approved by RACS for the duration of the award.
- b) The travel must have commenced before the end of the scholarship program year for which the award was offered.
- c) Travel must not have commenced before the application closing date.

3.9.2 Financial Arrangements

- a) The recipient may engage in professional work for additional remuneration, including but not limited to clinical sessional work, teaching and consulting.
b) It is recommended that the recipient refers to a financial or tax advisor to ascertain the taxability of the award. General information about whether awards are exempt from income tax is available on the RACS website. Please go to www.surgeons.org/scholarships/ and see the FAQ section.

c) The award will be paid directly to the recipient prior to 1 March in the given year.

d) Award funds will only be paid on receipt of a valid tax invoice provided by the recipient upon request by RACS.

e) Payment will only be upheld if all other requirements outlined in the conditions of this policy are satisfied

3.9.3 Additional Scholarships/Fellowships/Awards

Recipients may not hold two RACS awards simultaneously. However they may hold this award in conjunction with a non-RACS award.

3.9.4 Reporting

a) The recipient must provide RACS with a suitable report in the requested format on the travel/educational program undertaken as requested during December for submission by a specified date in January.

b) If the report is not received the recipient will be ineligible for any further financial assistance from RACS and may be required at the discretion of RACS to refund the award.

c) A copy of this report will be sent to ANZSGC and Dr Hamza.

d) The ANZSGC reports recommendations, findings and outcomes to the Scholarships Monitoring and Evaluation Committee, which oversees the evaluation of the Scholarship Program.

e) Recipients are encouraged to present their findings and/or learnings at the annual meeting of the Surgical Research Society of Australasia and elsewhere.

f) Upon request, recipients must make themselves available to prepare an article for publishing in Surgical News on the completion of their award.

g) Applicable award recipients may be required to complete two Scholarship Evaluation Surveys upon request. The first will be requested upon completion of the award. The second will be requested about five years after completion of their award.

3.9.5 Ethics Approval

Where applicable, RACS must receive documentary evidence of ethical approval from the Ethics Committee of the Institution concerned to approve that the project conforms to the general principles set out in the NH&MRC “Statement on Human Experimentation”, the “Australian Code of Practice for the Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes” and/or the Health Research Council of New Zealand HRC Research Ethics Guidelines.
3.9.6 Timing of Award

The commencement date for awards is 1 January each year.

3.9.7 Reapplication for the Award

Previous recipients are eligible to re-apply in subsequent years through the normal application channels and observing the advertised application deadlines and formats in competition with all applications.

3.9.8 Acknowledgements

RACS and the Foundation for Surgery must be acknowledged in any relevant correspondence, public announcement, advertising, publication, presentation or other material relating to the award. The Foundation for Surgery logo must be included in all presentations relating to the award.

3.9.9 Publications and Patents

RACS 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.

3.9.10 Acceptance of Offer

The scholar must complete and sign the Acceptance Form as acknowledgement of the above conditions, and return it to RACS before the date specified.

3.10 Privacy

Recipients should refer to the RACS Privacy Policy for information on how RACS may collect, store and disclose personal information.

3.11 Termination of the Award

RACS 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 recipient of his/her award. From the date of either of these decisions, the entitlement to funding and other allowances shall cease.

Upon termination, monies already paid, and not duly expended, shall be refunded to RACS.

3.12 Administering Committee

ANZSGC administers the award.

4. ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

PRC: Travel Scholarships – General

FRM: Scholarship Program Amendment Form

Approver ANZ Scholarship and Grant Committee

Authoriser PDSB