

John Mitchell Crouch Fellowship

Research Guideline GDL-4861

Review: January 2026

Governing Policy: POL-4832 Research Scholarship Policy

Eligibility summary	RACS Fellows (within 15 years of Fellowship)
Interest area	Advancement of surgery or research

RACS most prestigious scholarship, the John Mitchell Crouch Fellowship, is awarded to a Fellow who is making an outstanding contribution to the advancement of surgery or to fundamental scientific research in the field in which they are actively working.

The late Mrs Elisabeth Unsworth established the Fellowship in 1978 in honour of her son, Dr John Mitchell Crouch, who died in 1977 at the age of 36. Mrs Unsworth wished to support recipients to contribute to the understanding and practice of surgery in keeping with the skills and promise demonstrated by her son.

Conditions

This guideline outlines information specific to the respective scholarship's purpose, value, duration, conditions and recipient eligibility. For all the conditions for this scholarship it is essential that you also read the Research Policy.

Applicant eligibility

Applications are open to RACS Fellows who have obtained their Fellowship (or comparable overseas qualification) within the past 15 years.

Please note, FRACS applicants and previous recipients are ineligible for this Fellowship.

Eligible activity

The Fellowship supports the recipient to continue in their efforts in the advancement of surgery or in fundamental scientific research.

Application requirements

Applications must include:

- Career and employment details
- Research proposal including project aim, research questions, research objectives, scientific literature references, research design, participants, data analysis, limitations and assumptions
- A list of the applicant's five most important publications. Impact factors and impact range for the applicant's sub-specialty must also be included for their publications.
- A list of the applicant's five most important conference presentations

Selection

Selection is assessed via the written application. Shortlisted applicants may be invited to interview.

The selection panel is comprised of all members of the ANZ Scholarship and Grant Committee.

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Recipient obligations

A project report (800-1000 words, of publishable quality) is required at the end of the Fellowship year.

The recipient is expected to attend a formal presentation at the RACS Annual Scientific Congress (ASC) Convocation ceremony in May in the year of Fellowship. The recipient must also be prepared to make a 20-minute oral presentation at the ASC on their research work, including the proposed contribution arising from the Fellowship.

Recipients are encouraged, but not obligated, to submit an abstract, and if successful, to present their findings and/or learnings at the annual meeting of the Surgical Research Society of Australasia and elsewhere.

Reapplication

Recipients can only receive the John Mitchell Crouch Fellowship once.

Financial arrangements

The fellowship will be paid to the administering institution upon receipt of a valid tax invoice as requested by the Scholarships and Grants department. Payment will be made in one instalment prior to 1 March in the scholarship year.

Fellowship funding consists of a stipend only.

Funding Source

This Fellowship is funded from income derived from the John Mitchell Crouch Fellowship corpus under the Foundation for Surgery.

More information

The [John Mitchell Crouch Fellowship book \(PDF 3.26MB\)](#) profiles recipients from 1979 to 2020.

RACS *Surgical News* [article \(PDF 1.56MB\)](#) in July 2006.

[ANZ Journal of Surgery: "Looking back at the John Mitchell Crouch Fellowship: the most prestigious research award of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons" \(PDF 117.14KB\)](#)