1. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to state the position of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS) on the establishment and maintenance of a museum of surgery known as the College of Surgeons Museum.

2. KEYWORDS

Museum, exhibitions

3. BODY OF POLICY

3.1. Background

In order for the Fellows, Trainees, the surgical fraternity, the medical profession generally, students and the general public to have reasonable access to the College Collections, a dedicated museum space will be maintained within the RACS building in Melbourne.

3.2. Objectives

3.2.1 The name of the museum is College of Surgeons Museum.

3.2.2 The museum is a space in which long-term, in-depth exhibitions relating to the history and function of the College, lives of the Fellows, the history of surgery and medicine, and other relevant topics, may be mounted.

The museum also acts as a study collection, where those with special medical interests may study the history and technology of surgery, and history of the College, in-depth.

The museum also acts as a repository for significant instruments in the history and development of surgical procedures and technology.

3.2.3 The Museum will be accessible from 10am to 4pm Monday to Thursday, by prior arrangement with the Curator.

3.2.4 A program of exhibitions will be developed and maintained for the Museum. The program will be reviewed annually. Exhibitions will be developed in the Museum particularly for the benefit of the wider public. Exhibitions in the Museum will be changed two to three times per year.

Smaller displays of material from the Collections may be mounted in other areas of the building, not normally accessible to the general public. These may be accessed by prior arrangement with the Curator.

The Museum is able to borrow objects and material from other institutions to enhance and strengthen its exhibitions and displays. Loans shall be arranged in accordance with the Collections - Loans policy.
3.2.5 In order to minimise the amount of material in storage, part of the Museum’s role is to function as a study collection, and material will be arranged taxonomically and housed in cabinets designed with this function in mind.

3.2.6 Objects on display will be kept secure and protected from theft and damage. Environmental control, including temperature, relative humidity, lux levels and UV levels, will be maintained in accordance with recognized museum industry standards.

3.2.7 A museum page on the RACS website will be developed and maintained, describing the Museum and its activities, for the benefit of remote users.

3.3. **Duties and Responsibilities**

Responsibility for maintaining the museum and its exhibitions lies with the Curator.

4. **ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS**

- Cultural Gifts Program Policy
- Interpretation Policy
- Loans Policy

**Approver**  
CEO

**Authoriser**  
Council