

Academy of Surgical Educators Recognition Awards

1. Purpose and scope

- 1.1. This policy governs the nomination and award process of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS) Academy of Surgical Educators (ASE) Recognition Awards. The ASE Recognition Awards acknowledge the contribution of surgical supervisors, clinical assessors and facilitators who deliver the College's education and training programs.

2. Definitions

- 2.1. **Academy** means the Academy of Surgical Educators and includes Fellows, Trainees and others who are educators at various levels who have a keen interest in facilitating learning and teaching and a commitment to surgical education.
- 2.2. **SET Supervisor**, as determined by the Surgical Supervisors Policy
- 2.3. **SIMG Supervisor**, as determined by the Supervisors of Specialist International Medical Graduates in Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand policy
- 2.4. **Facilitator or Instructor**, as determined by the RACS Faculty Charter policy
- 2.5. **Surgical Educator** includes Supervisors, Trainers, Specialist International Medical Graduates (SIMGs) supervisors, workshop facilitators, interviewers, course directors, instructors and examiners, including both FRACS and non-FRACS educators.
- 2.6. **STC/B** means Specialty Training Committee or Board

3. Background

- 3.1. The RACS Academy of Surgical Educators Recognition Awards acknowledge and reward the dedication and excellence of surgical educators across Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand.
- 3.2. The Recognition Awards include the following:
 - 3.2.1. Educator of Merit
 - a. SET Supervisor/SIMG Supervisor of the Year
 - b. Facilitator/ Instructor of the Year
 - 3.2.2. Educator of Commitment
 - 3.2.3. ASE Membership Certificate

4. Presentation and Frequency

- 4.1. The presentation of the Educator of Merit Awards is made at the Academy of Surgical Educators' Annual Forum.
- 4.2. Nominations for the annual awards are called for in April of each year and awarded according to merit. If no applicant meets the criteria in a particular year, the awards will not be awarded in that year.
- 4.3. Membership certificates are awarded upon approval of application.

5. Criteria for Award

5.1. Educator of Merit: SET Supervisor/SIMG Supervisor of the Year

- 5.1.1. An award presented by the Academy of Surgical Educators to recognise an exceptional contribution by a SET Supervisor/SIMG Supervisor toward supporting Trainees or Specialist International Medical Graduates (SIMGs) to fulfil the goals, values and mission of RACS.
- 5.1.2. One SET Supervisor/SIMG Supervisor of the Year award will be awarded in each state or territory of Australia and Two SET Supervisor/SIMG Supervisor of the Year award will be awarded in Aotearoa New Zealand, provided there is an appropriate candidate nominated.
- 5.1.3. The SET Supervisor/SIMG Supervisor of the Year award may be nominated by a member of the STC/B, regional committee, specialty society, clinical team, surgical colleague, SIMG, Trainee or RACS staff member.
- 5.1.4. This award will be judged on the following criteria:
 - a. Demonstration of the RACS' goals, values and mission
 - b. Inspirational role model as a SET Supervisor/SIMG Supervisor
 - c. Understanding of and commitment to training and surgical education
 - d. Involvement in training and continuing professional development
 - e. FRACS Fellow who teaches/supervises, who may be a STC/B designated supervisor.
 - f. Confirmed as a SET Supervisor/SIMG Supervisor in last 2 years

5.2. Educator or Merit: Facilitator/Instructor of the Year

- 5.2.1. An award presented by the Academy of Surgical Educators to recognise an exceptional contribution by a course facilitator or instructor teaching Professional Development or Skills Education courses and activities.
- 5.2.2. The Facilitator / Instructor of the Year Award may be nominated by a surgical educator colleague, Fellow, SIMG, Trainee or staff member of RACS.
- 5.2.3. This award will be judged on the following criteria:
 - a. Demonstration of the RACS vision and mission
 - b. Inspirational role model as a facilitator or facilitator of Professional Development or Skills Education activities
 - c. Understanding of and commitment to surgical education
 - d. Demonstration of leadership in program delivery
 - e. Active as a course facilitator or instructor in the last 2 years

5.3. **Educator of Commitment**

- 5.3.1. The Educator of Commitment Awards acknowledges the contribution of RACS registered SET Supervisor/SIMG Supervisor and facilitators over a sustained period of time.
- 5.3.2. Upon STC/B accreditation as a supervisor they are awarded a certificate and bronze lapel pin. After completion of nine years of service and upon retirement from position as a supervisor they are awarded a gold lapel pin and Certificate of Outstanding Service by RACS.

5.4. **Academy of Surgical Educators Membership Certificate**

- 5.4.1. A certificate is presented by the Academy of Surgical Educators upon approval of application. Membership is open to all Fellows, Trainees and SIMGs committed as educators to the roles of Teacher and Scholar. External members who have strong educational interests and expertise, and who contribute to RACS surgical education programs are also welcome to apply.

6. **Nominations**

6.1. **Educator of Merit**

- 6.1.1. The Academy of Surgical Educators Educator of Merit nominations will be considered at the Academy of Surgical Educators Committee (ASEC) in June each year.
- 6.1.2. Nominations are to be received by the ASE Awards sub Committee prior to the June meeting, with a recommendation for approval made to ASEC.

6.2. **Educator of Commitment**

- 6.2.1. A list of eligible educators will be tabled at the Academy of Surgical Educators Committee (ASEC) meeting at the end of each year.
- 6.2.2. Distribution of the certificates and lapel pins, or lapel pins and Certificates of Outstanding Service, will occur after the recipients' names are tabled at the ASEC.

6.3. **ASE Membership Certificate**

- 6.3.1. The membership of the Academy can be awarded at any time throughout the year.
- 6.3.2. Distribution of the certificates will occur periodically after the membership is approved. Nomination approval process

7. **Verification**

- 7.1. The professionalism status of all potential award recipients will be verified by ensuring there are no breaches of the RACS Code of Conduct. The verification process will include:
 - a. RACS Complaints database
 - b. Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Authority (AHPRA) and Te Kaunihera Rata o Aotearoa Medical Council of New Zealand (MCNZ) databases
 - c. Executive Director of Surgical Affairs (EDSA) in Australia and Surgical Advisors - Aotearoa New Zealand
 - d. The seconder to the nomination
 - e. The relevant STC/B
 - f. The nominated awardee's main hospital of practice (this could include the Director of Medical Services and/or Director of Surgery, as applicable)

8. Committee Recommendation

- 8.1. An Academy Recognition Awards Sub Committee will be convened annually to discuss the nominations and make recommendations of award recipients to the ASEC.
- 8.2. This subcommittee will comprise the Chair, Academy of Surgical Educators and the Executive Director Surgical Affairs for Australia and Surgical Advisors - Aotearoa New Zealand.
- 8.3. Recommendations will be made based on the information provided through the nomination and verification process.
- 8.4. The recommendation will then be endorsed by the ASEC and a recommendation for acceptance will be made to the Professional Development Committee and Education Committee.

9. The Award and Responsibility of costs

9.1. Educator of Merit

- 9.1.1. The award is in the form of a Certificate of Outstanding Service framed certificate with a gold medallion. Costs associated with production of the framed medal and certificate, and their postage, will be covered by the Academy of Surgical Educator's budget.

9.2. Educator of Commitment

- 9.2.1. Upon Board accreditation as a supervisor the award is in the form of a bronze lapel pin and certificate. Costs associated with the production of the lapel pins is covered by the Academy of Surgical Educator's budget. Costs associated with the production of the certificate, and their postage, is covered by the Education Partnerships Portfolio.
- 9.2.2. After completion of nine years of service and upon retirement from position as a supervisor the award is in the form of gold lapel pin and a Certificate of Outstanding Service framed certificate with gold medallion. Costs associated with production of the framed medal and certificate, and their postage, is covered by the Academy of Surgical Educator's budget.

9.3. ASE Membership Certificate

- 9.3.1. The award is in the form of a certificate. The costs associated with the production and postage of the certificate is covered by the Academy of Surgical Educators' budget.

10. Financial implications for the recipient of the award

- 10.1. As these awards are normally presented at the Academy of Surgical Educators Forum it is important to note that:
- 10.2. If being presented at an ASE/ RACS function, the banquet costs for the recipient and their partner will be paid for by ASE.
- 10.3. Travel and accommodation are not provided to the recipient of the awards and other costs will not be paid or reimbursed by RACS.

11. Communications

11.1. Educator of Merit

- 11.1.1. All award recipients will be announced in RACS communiques including Surgical News, Fax Mentis, website, Academy newsletter and on all social media platforms.

11.2. Educator of Commitment

11.2.1. A list of SET Supervisor/SIMG Supervisor,, instructors and facilitators that have served 3, 6 and 9 years will appear in both Surgical News and the website at the end of each year.

11.3. ASE Membership Certificate

11.3.1. All Academy applicants will be notified by email upon receipt of their application and status updates throughout the process.

12. Associated documents

12.1. Policies

- a. Supervisors of Specialist International Medical Graduates in Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand policy
- b. Surgical Supervisors policy
- c. RACS Faculty Charter policy

13. Information

Title	Academy of Surgical Educators Recognition Awards
Document number	POL-2009
Version	2
Changes	Replaces FES-PRD-019
Date approved	06/03/2023
Date effective	10/03/2023
Approving authority	Education Committee
Portfolio	Education Development and Delivery
Document owner	Manager Education Services, Professional Development
Enquiries	pdactivities@surgeons.org