

Division:	External Affairs	Ref. No.	EXA-RGH-032
Department:	RACS Global Health		
Title:	RACS PNG Medals		

1. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy governs the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (herein referred to as “the College”) awards made to Papua New Guinean graduates from the University of Papua New Guinea (UPNG). The policy defines the terms of the two RACS PNG Medal awards.

2. KEYWORDS

Papua New Guinea, Award, Medal, Prize, University of Papua New Guinea, UPNG, Papuan Medical College, RACS Global Health Committee, PSA Award

3. BODY OF POLICY

3.1. The RACS PNG Medals

3.1.1. Background

The College and the Papuan Medical College (later Faculty of Medicine, University of Papua New Guinea) began collaboration on a medal to recognise outstanding academic achievement in the 1960s. The resulting College PNG Medal was first awarded to the best surgical undergraduate in 1966.

Postgraduate (Specialist) training in Surgery began in the 1970s through UPNG who award a Masters of Medicine (MMed) to the successful candidates after a minimum of four years of supervised surgical practice. The first graduates of this program were in 1979. A College medal was introduced for the best MMed graduate in surgery sometime in the 1990s.

3.1.2. Terms

One medal is awarded to the best performing final year student in the MMed (Surgery) examination. The medal is awarded on the recommendation of the examiner(s) of the final year MMed surgery examination.

Another award is made to the best performing final year student in the MBBS, as determined by UPNG.

Awards are made by the College on the recommendation and with the endorsement of the Head of the Department of Surgery, UPNG. They are awarded on an annual basis, provided there is a candidate who fulfils the criteria. If there are no suitable candidates in a particular year, the medal or medals are not awarded.

The College President or his/her representative presents the medal(s) at an appropriate meeting in either Australia or PNG. This has historically been the PNG Medical Symposium or the Provincial Surgeons of Australia (PSA) meeting, but could also be made at the ASC. There is no College funding available for travel by award recipients.

3.2. The Provincial Surgeons of Australia (PSA) Prize

The PSA have presented an annual prize to the best performing PNG Surgical Registrar (in their MMed program) since 1993. The PSA Prize was established as a result of Mr Peter King’s role as locum Professor of Surgery in PNG for several months in 1986. Peter King was very active in the PSA as well as being a College Councillor.

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The prize has historically taken the form of a medical textbook in the successful candidate's field of interest.

The PSA Convening Committee governs this award.

3.3. Funding of the Award

Funding for the production and inscription of the RACS PNG medals is covered by the RACS Global Health Committee budget. The PSA Prize is covered by the Provincial Surgeons of Australia.

4. ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

RACS Global Health Committee Terms of Reference

5. COMMUNICATION

Updates to this policy will be available on the College Website.

Approver CEO
Authoriser Professional Development and Standards Board