

Training Accreditation

The Training Accreditation Committee (TAC) has focused on a number of major achievements in the past year.

Continuation of the re-accreditation of Integrated Training Program (ITP) hospitals

This commenced in March 2007 and 35 sites have now been re-accredited. Each re-accreditation is conducted by a team from the College comprising of two Fellows, a senior College staff member and, where available, a jurisdictional representative. In this initial cycle, only the home/base hospital and one peripheral in each ITP will be visited. Eventually all 88 ITP sites will be re-accredited. With the exception of Western Australia, re-accreditations have been conducted in all Australian States and in New Zealand. The re-accreditation of Western Australian hospitals will start early in 2009. Follow-up reviews are required for 21 sites because of identified areas of concern. However, only sites which are seen as having very serious issues will actually require follow-up visits. In most cases, the hospital, in consultation with the relevant Regional/NZ TA Committee, will submit a report on performance and progress to the College.

New ITP sites

Two additional ITP sites have been accredited: Greymouth Hospital and Rotorua Hospital, New Zealand.

College applications

There has been the consideration and recommendation of 47 Membership applications and 68 Fellowship applications to Council.

Training opportunities outside the public sector

The College has been involved in negotiations with the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing (DHA) to explore expanded training opportunities outside the public sector (for example, private hospitals and private rooms). The TAC has encouraged hospitals and other facilities to apply for funding for expanded setting posts under the DHA's Expanded Specialist Training Program (ESTP). \$100,000 per expanded setting post is available for 2009/2010. The College has contracted with the DHA to undertake formal accreditation of those sites which receive ESTP funding. These accreditations will be conducted by 31 October 2008. This accreditation project includes the development of accreditation guidelines for expanded settings, which are based on those developed for ITP hospitals. The key requirement of all expanded settings is the same as for ITP sites, that is, the core educational objectives of the training program are being met.

Selection process for ITP Trainees

The TAC is continuing to review the College's selection process for ITP trainees, with agreed selection criteria consistently applied across all states and regions. The TAC is currently focusing on establishing a consistent and measurable shortlisting and feedback process (the latter for those candidates who are not successful in their application).

New Terms of Reference

The TAC has developed new Terms of Reference to clarify its role in relation to the Education and Assessment Committee.

Trainees' Statement of Understanding document

A new Trainees' Statement of Understanding document has been implemented, which, as from 2009, all new Trainees will be required to read and sign. This document clearly delineates Trainees' rights and responsibilities.

Review of the Elective Training Program

The TAC has commenced work on one of its key objectives for the next two years: a review of the Elective Training Program. This is being done as part of the wider curriculum review process. The Elective Training Program review is focusing on the following areas: the process for prospectively approving Elective training; the formal accreditation of Elective training posts; and consideration of the introduction of modular-based training.

Training Supervisor Workshops

There has been the introduction of a new format all-day Training Supervisor workshop, which includes group discussions and role plays, to help supervisors provide appropriate support to Trainees in difficulty. The workshop also covers the College curriculum and assessment issues, including the appropriate way of dealing with RANZCOG training documentation. These workshops are conducted by senior members of the College staff.

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)

There has been the development of a new RANZCOG policy and assessment criteria for RPL which was approved by Council in November 2007. The TAC has also established an RPL Assessment Subcommittee, which meets every six months to consider RPL applications.

Sexual assault forensic exams

There has been the implementation of a new RANZCOG policy on requirements for Trainees to perform sexual assault forensic examinations (when such requirements are appropriate).

Clinical training while pregnant

The TAC has contributed to the development of a new policy on clinical training while pregnant drawn up by the Women's Health Committee. This policy addresses such issues as appropriate duties, working hours and leave entitlements.

Compulsory fetal surveillance workshops

The TAC has liaised closely with the Education and Assessment Committee to establish a College policy on compulsory fetal surveillance workshops for first-year Trainees. This requirement will take effect as from 2009.

College prejudicial relationships policy

The TAC continues to work with the Women's Health Committee on the revision of the College's prejudicial relationships policy.

Survey of part-time training experiences

The TAC has overseen the development of an extensive survey of RANZCOG Trainees' part-time training experiences to identify their needs and concerns.

Review of training

There is ongoing review of training in gynaecological oncology, ultrasound and colposcopy.

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