



GUIDELINES

WITHERS AND PETERS GRANT

For Fellows less than five years post-Fellowship and trainees who have passed Phase 2 examinations

The RANZCR Terms and Conditions – Grants and Fellowships must be read in conjunction with these guidelines.

PURPOSE

The grant is:

1. A supplement to an existing salary from an institution, or
2. An addition to grants already received, with a view to providing additional support or incentive in the early research career of eligible Fellows and trainees.

GRANT BACKGROUND

The grant was named in honour of two eminent RANZCR Fellows, Professor Rodney Withers and Professor Lester Peters, both of whom have made major contributions to the field of radiation oncology and obtained national and international recognition for their achievements. The purpose of the Withers and Peters Grant is to promote the culture of radiation oncology research among Fellows and eligible trainees of the College by supporting our most able and committed early career researchers to carry out significant research projects.

It is hoped that recipients of this grant will go on to have careers in which research plays a significant role to the benefit of patients, the recipients themselves and the wider oncology community. This grant is aligned with the strategic research priorities of the College.

Applicants who present for a higher academic degree based on their research work are encouraged to apply.

THE AWARD

One grant of AU\$25,000. Funds will be paid directly to the University or Hospital fund nominated by the candidate. Payment can only be made into such a fund and not to an individual.

TENURE AND REPORTING

Candidates should state on the application form when the research project is expected to be completed.

The successful candidate is required to submit a progress report to the College in January of each year, and a final report upon study completion.

ELIGIBILITY

- RANZCR trainees who have passed Phase 2 examinations
- RANZCR Fellows less than five years post-Fellowship
- Previous Withers and Peters Grant recipients (for continuation of the same and previously funded project). Please note the grant may be awarded to the same recipient on a maximum of two occasions
- Applicants must be the Principal Investigator of an eligible research project
- Employed in Australia, New Zealand or Singapore. However, by way of exception, consideration will be given for researchers to carry out work at centres of excellence overseas, with the expectation that the Fellow will return to work in Australia, New Zealand or Singapore within five years

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

1. Clarity of aims and objectives
2. Soundness of hypothesis
3. Appropriateness of study method and design
4. Relevance of study to radiation oncology
5. Potential significance of the research
6. Track record of the investigator
7. Track record of co-investigators
8. Evidence of being enrolled in a research higher degree

Other consideration in assessing the proposals will include:

- Potential of the study to benefit patients or advance scientific understanding
- Potential of the study to expand into a continuing program of research or become a multicentre phase II or phase III clinical trial under the auspices of the Trans Tasman Radiation Oncology Group or other collaborative clinical trials group
- Potential for collaboration with other researchers or institutions
- Letter from the Director of the institution the candidate is affiliated with: [a] supporting the application and [b] confirming that protected time is available to the candidate for the research activity detailed in the application
- Declaration of the source, duration and level of funding already available to the candidate

TYPES OF RESEARCH STUDIES ELIGIBLE FOR THE GRANT

All projects must be directly related to radiation oncology and expected to lead to publication in a peer-reviewed journal.

Projects may comprise any or a combination of the following:

1. Clinical research
2. Translational research
3. Basic science
4. Health economics
5. Educational research

The Withers and Peters Grant will not fund:

- Transport/travel
- Food
- Conference costs
- Resources that would be routinely funded by the institution including software/hardware

PROTECTED RESEARCH TIME

It would be desirable that the candidate will be working full-time in research during the period of the funding. However, it is recognised that the candidate may be required to carry out some clinical duties as part of their contract. Under these circumstances the minimum time allocated to research activities should not be less than 0.5 FTE. This is to be certified in writing by the Director of the institution/s the candidate is affiliated with.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Applicants are required to submit a detailed research proposal by completing an application form from the website. Applicants must ensure that all the application fields are completed, paying particular attention to:

- The background to the project
- Outlining any hypotheses to be tested and methodology
- Statistical methods
- Ethical issues

- Relevant literature
- Relevant publications from the last five years

The application form is available to download from the [College website](#).

APPLICATION ENDORSEMENT

A panel of reviewers will be established by the Radiation Oncology Research Committee of the College to assess and rank the applications. Expert outside reviewers with relevant specialist knowledge, including statisticians and consumers, may be asked to contribute to the process. Members of the panel will be required to declare any conflict of interest that they may have. The highest ranking application will be recommended to the Faculty of Radiation Oncology Council for endorsement.

NOTIFICATION

Once a successful recipient has been endorsed by the Faculty Council, the College will formally notify the successful recipient by email. Ordinarily this notification will take place by the end of July each year. Names of the recipients will be added to the College Awards and Honours Roll, which is published on the College website.

APPLYING FOR A SECOND YEAR OF FUNDING

Applicants who have been successful for the Withers and Peters Grant in previous years are eligible to apply for a subsequent year of funding provided they have met the following criteria:

1. You have claimed the funds you were previously awarded
2. A satisfactory progress report (or reports, depending on the year the previous grant was awarded) has been submitted to the College as stipulated in the 'Tenure and reporting' section, and before the grant application deadline
3. The application form has been completed with the up-to-date details of the research project
4. The following supporting documents are attached to the application form:
 - Letter of support from the Head of Department
 - Ethics approval
 - Your current curriculum vitae (CV)

Please note that awards and grants are subject to change on an annual basis.