



The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists®

Radiation Oncology Research Mentor Role Description

Preamble

The Faculty of Radiation Oncology aims to train practitioners capable of independent research by providing trainees with an environment that promotes academic development and a strong culture of research. We are committed to assisting those embarking on research for the first-time offering resources, tools and support. Trainees have also identified the need for increased research mentorship.

Primary Purpose of Position:

This position exists to help develop mentor relationships early in a trainee's career as a critical component in fostering his/her research interest. It will improve equity of access to support and advice around academic/research activities for trainees across all training sites with differing levels of research focus.

The Research Mentor role(s) will be flexible according to the needs of the Network. Not every Network will have a Research Mentor at any given time.

Support for Research Mentor role:

- The research mentor will be familiarised with resources available in training centres, Networks and the College to fulfil the role.
- Internally, it is expected that the Head of Department and the Research Director would support the mentor. The Research Director (if this role exists) may also be the mentor.
- Within the College, the ROETC and RORC will be the key committees collaborating with the mentor.
- The mentor may need to liaise with DoTs, research project supervisors, the Educational Support Officers (ESOs) and the Training Network Director (TND).

Appointment and Tenure:

The Network will agree as to whether they will nominate a Research Mentor. This will partly depend on the research arrangements already in existence and the mix of sites within that Network.

- The position will be nominated by the Training Network Director and will have the support of the Network Governance Committee members.
- No fixed term will be set for this position.
- The appointee shall hold Fellowship or be an Educational Affiliate of RANZCR.
- The Research Mentor will not be the Director of Training (DoT) unless there are justifiable reasons that this should be the case.
- The Research Mentor is not necessarily a supervisor for individual trainee research projects.
- If there is a Research Director, that person may also be the Mentor, or they may assist in identifying a suitable Mentor.
- The ROETC can review and withdraw the tenure of a Research Mentor at any time.

Qualifications and Skills:

It is desirable for the appointee to have the following:

- Knowledge:
 - Basic and/or translational and/or clinical research
 - Research opportunities in Australasia
 - Clinical Trials
 - Funding mechanisms, including College-based grants
- Experience:
 - Principal Investigator
 - Track record of publications
 - Grant application success



- Tutoring/mentoring those undertaking research (e.g. MD or PhD)
- Skills in:
 - Establishing and maintaining research connections and networks
 - Peer review
- Active membership in the Trans-Tasman Radiation Oncology Group (TROG)

Responsibilities:

The Research Mentor may contribute to trainee research activities by:

1. Reviewing/critiquing the trainee's drafts and manuscripts and providing constructive criticism in a timely manner.
2. Providing feedback on research presentations.
3. Reviewing a mentee's plan for achieving his/her research career goals and providing guidance about how they may reach the next step in their career.
4. Facilitating connections to appropriate researchers in their field of research.
5. Passing on opportunities such as grants to seek.
6. Providing institutional knowledge about pathways and resources.
7. Advocating for the mentee, for example by assisting in securing protected time when needed for the mentee to achieve particular goals (e.g. grant submission).
8. Advising trainees on the most suitable journals in which to publish
9. Communicating with trainees about relevant research-related events.
10. Attending research meetings.

Please note that this list is not exhaustive, and the responsibilities and scope of the Research Mentor role will be adapted according to local centre and individual trainee need and interest.

Approved by the ROETC 29 October 2021 and ratified by the FRO Council 26 November 2021.