

# Award of Honorary Fellowship

## Policy

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<b>References/Legislation</b>	
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<b>Applicability</b>	Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand

*Note: This is a controlled document within the [RACP Policy Framework](#). The Framework covers all RACP policies, procedures, by-laws, terms of reference, guidelines, forms and so forth. Any new documents or amendments of existing documents or changes to approver, owner or area of college should be done in accordance with the RACP Policy Framework and Document Control (RACP Policy Framework) Procedure.*

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### 1. INTRODUCTION

Clause 2.4 of the RACP Constitution confers upon the Board of The Royal Australasian College of Physicians (the Board) the ability to award Honorary Fellowship.

The award of Honorary Fellowship is a prestigious appointment and may only be conferred upon distinguished or renowned members of the medical profession and other eminent persons, whether or not those eminent persons are members of the medical profession.

### 2. PURPOSE

This document outlines the policy for nomination, consideration, and awarding of Honorary Fellowship by the Board.

### 3. SCOPE

All Members of the College and College Bodies must adhere to this policy when considering and/or recommending nominees to the Board for the Award of Honorary Fellowship of the College.

### 4. THE POLICY

The Board may from time to time admit people as Honorary Fellows on such basis and on such conditions as set out in any by-laws and provided that Honorary Fellows shall not be entitled to vote in relation to governance matters of the College, including at any General Meetings (as outlined in 6.5.6 of the RACP Constitution).

All nominations for the Award of Honorary Fellowship must go to the College Council for initial review. The College Council will provide a recommendation to the Board for consideration and approval. Approval by a majority of votes by Board Directors present and voting at the Board Meeting must be received.

#### 4.1. Nominations for Honorary Fellowship

A nomination is made, in writing, to the **RACP President** and will comprise:

- i. a letter of nomination from a member of the College;
- ii. a letter of support from a relevant College body (e.g., Division or Faculty council, Chapter committee);
- iii. a response to the criteria for the Award of Honorary Fellowship (Appendix 1) (completed Honorary Fellowship Criteria Form per Appendix 2); and
- iv. the nominee's detailed curriculum vitae.

Members of the College and/or College bodies may nominate individuals for consideration for the Award of Honorary Fellowship. Nominees will be assessed against the criteria outlined in Appendix 1.

Individuals seeking Fellowship of the College will not be considered for Honorary Fellowship and must apply for Fellowship via the College's training, Overseas Trained Physician Assessment, or other Faculty/Chapter pathways.

Current RACP members are ineligible to receive Honorary Fellowship.

- i. Past RACP members that meet the respective criteria below (Appendix 1) are eligible to receive Honorary Fellowship unless their membership was revoked or terminated in accordance with 4.1.1 (b) and 4.2.1 (e) of the Constitution of the RACP.

There is no requirement for Honorary Fellowship to be awarded in a particular year if no nominees are deemed suitable.

The Award of Honorary Fellowship is based on mandatory and additional criteria outlined in Appendix 1, of which nominees must meet the mandatory criteria and at least one of the additional criteria.

### **4.2. Award of Honorary Fellowship**

The RACP President will advise the approved recipients of the honour.

The Admission date to Honorary Fellowship is the date the Honorary Fellowship was approved by the Board.

Honorary Fellowships will be given directly to recipients at the annual College Ceremony or other approved event.

Recipients will receive a testamur.

No provision is made for the Award of Honorary Fellowship in absentia.

### **4.3. Entitlements of Honorary Fellows**

The Award of Honorary Fellowship is an honour bestowed by the College.

Honorary Fellows are entitled to use the post-nominal according to their award as approved by the Board, being:

- i. FRACP (Hon.); or
- ii. FAFOEM (Hon.); or
- iii. FAFPHM (Hon.); or
- iv. FAFRM (Hon.); or
- v. FACHAM (Hon.); or
- vi. FACHPM (Hon.); or
- vii. FACHSHM (Hon.).

Honorary Fellows receive College publications, including relevant journals.

Honorary Fellows have access to the Members' Page of the College website.

Honorary Fellows are not required to pay annual Fellowship Fees.

Honorary Fellowship is a category of membership of the College.

Honorary Fellowship does not entitle the recipient to vote in relation to governance matters of the College, including at any General Meetings as per 6.5.6 of the RACP Constitution.

The Award of Honorary Fellowship does not confer the recipient any right of recognition as a specialist physician or practice as a specialist physician.

### 5. REVOCATION OF HONORARY FELLOWSHIP

An Honorary Fellowship will be revoked by the College immediately if the recipient of the Honorary Fellowship, in the opinion of the Board fails to comply with the College Code of Conduct.

### 6. AUTHORITY

The College Council has oversight of administration of the Award of Honorary Fellowships.

### 7. PRIVACY

The College Privacy Policy applies.

### 8. REVIEW OF POLICY

This policy will be reviewed every three years or as required in the event of legislative changes or requirements. The policy may also be changed as a result of other amendments.

Staff and members of the College may provide feedback about this document by emailing [RACPPolicy@racp.edu.au](mailto:RACPPolicy@racp.edu.au).

### 9. DEFINITIONS

Term	Means
"Board"	the Board of Directors of the College.
"College"	The Royal Australasian College of Physicians, ACN 000 039 047, an incorporated body limited by guarantee.
"Fellow", "Trainee", and "Member"	have the same meaning as in the College Constitution
"Honorary Fellow"	has the same meaning as in the College Constitution
"Nomination"	the act or instance of submitting a name for candidacy

### 10. HISTORY

Revision	Effective Date	Summary of Changes
1.0	March 2012	Initial approval/New Document
2.0	August 2020	Reviewed
3.0	December 2022	Inclusion of Honorary Fellowship of existing Faculties and Chapters where those Faculties and Chapters award Fellowship. Administrative edits.
4.0	30 May 2025	Policy name change from "Policy Governing the Award of Honorary Fellowship" to "Award of Honorary Fellowship". References to Fellowship Committee replaced with College Council.

## Appendix 1

### Criteria for Admission to Honorary Fellowship

#### ***Mandatory Criteria***

- i. Contribution to the College or Health and Medicine
  - The nominee must have made an extraordinary and sustained contribution to the College over a period of years or an outstanding contribution to health and medicine in Australia or Aotearoa New Zealand.

OR

- If not based in Australia or Aotearoa New Zealand, the nominee must have had an extraordinary and sustained interaction with the College or have made an outstanding contribution to international health and medicine or to health and medicine in their country of residence.

#### ***Additional Criteria***

- i. Professional Service
  - Professional eminence and leadership of a high order and for a significant length of time.
  - Leadership of national or international organisations.
  - Very senior administrative leadership in university or professional organisations.
- ii. Research
  - Research contributions of international significance, with dissemination in peer-reviewed international publications, and other international forums, for example, presentations by invitation in plenary sessions at meetings of international significance.
  - Evidence of acquisition of nationally competitive research funding.
- iii. Teaching/Professional Education
  - Evidence of national and/or international recognition for leadership and innovation in teaching and professional education.
- iv. Interaction with Medicine in Australia or Aotearoa New Zealand
  - Visiting Professorship/Lecturer in Australia or Aotearoa New Zealand of at least six (6) months' duration, or
  - Regular invited speaker to conferences/scientific meetings within Australia or Aotearoa New Zealand, or
  - Significant collaborative research with institutions/universities/hospitals within Australia or Aotearoa New Zealand, and sustained interaction with the College and/or contributions to it.

## Appendix 2

### Honorary Fellowship Criteria Form

Nominee name: \_\_\_\_\_

<Nominee Name> meets the following criteria for Honorary Fellowship of RACP:

#### **Mandatory Criteria**

- i. Contribution to the College or Health and Medicine
- The nominee must have made an extraordinary and sustained contribution to the College over a period of years or an outstanding contribution to health and medicine in Australia or Aotearoa New Zealand.
- OR
- If not based in Australia or Aotearoa New Zealand, the nominee must have had an extraordinary and sustained interaction with the College or have made an outstanding contribution to international health and medicine or to health and medicine in their country of residence.

*E.g.:*

- Board of RACP  
Non-Fellow Board Member

*date from – date to*

#### **Additional Criteria**

- i. Professional Service
- Professional eminence and leadership of a high order and for a significant length of time.
  - Leadership of national or international organisations.
  - Very senior administrative leadership in university or professional organisations.

*E.g.:*

- Auckland District Health Board  
Chief Executive Officer
- Review of Safety and Quality of Health Care in Australia  
Chair

*date from – date to*

*date from – date to*

### ii. Research

- Research contributions of international significance, with dissemination in peer-reviewed international publications, and other international forums, for example, presentations by invitation in plenary sessions at meetings of international significance.
- Evidence of acquisition of nationally competitive research funding.

*E.g.:*

- *Physical activity and Cardiovascular Disease*  
*British Medical Journal* June 2011
- *Physical activity and Cardiovascular Disease presentation*  
*Royal College of Physicians Conference* October 2011  
*London, England*

### iii. Teaching/Professional Education

- Evidence of national and/or international recognition for leadership and innovation in teaching and professional education.

*E.g.:*

- *University of New South Wales*  
*Professor of Health Law and Policy*

### iv. Interaction with Medicine in Australia or Aotearoa New Zealand

- Visiting Professorship/Lecturer in Australia or Aotearoa New Zealand of at least six (6) months' duration, or
- Regular invited speaker to conferences/scientific meetings within Australia or Aotearoa New Zealand, or
- Significant collaborative research with institutions/universities/hospitals within Australia or Aotearoa New Zealand, and sustained interaction with the College and/or contributions to it.

*E.g.:*

- *Melbourne University*  
*Visiting Professor of Biomedical Ethics* date from – date to
- *RACP Congress 2020*  
*Keynote Speaker* date from – date to



### **Qualifications**

Provide general overall biography of nominee, covering any information not already provided.