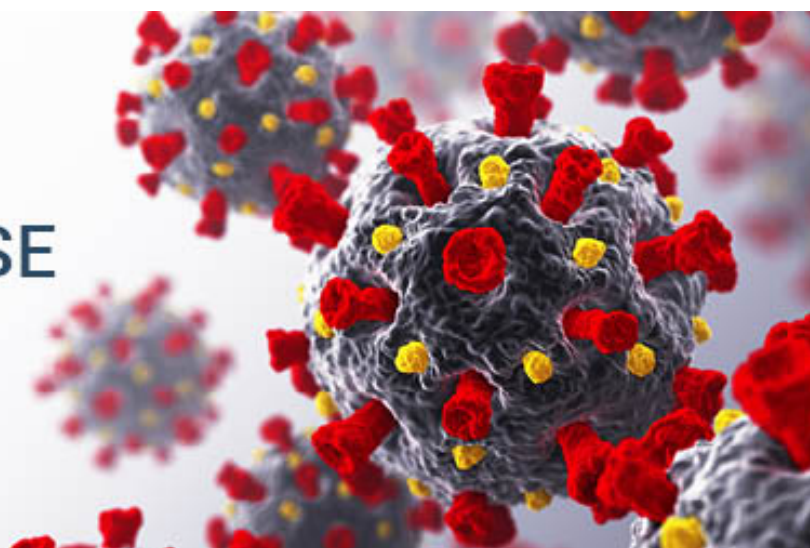


UPDATE

RACP COVID-19 RESPONSE



5 November 2020

Advocacy

- AFOEM Fellows' updated guidance on [COVID-19 Workplace Risk Management](#) was published on the RACP website on 23 October 2020.
- On 19 October 2020, a 'Virtual Town Hall' was held involving the Commonwealth Health Minister and RACP members. The Town Hall began at 5pm, with the RACP President chairing and leading a Q&A session with members on telehealth. The Commonwealth Health Minister joined the Town Hall at 5.40pm and gave a brief address to members, and then answered questions from members provided to him by the RACP President. The meeting closed at 6.15pm.

Advisory Groups – Education Learning and Assessment (ELA)

- There have been further communications to trainees, DPEs and examiners throughout September and October 2020 on how the virtual Long Cases will work. The Working Group have continued to meet weekly to drive design decisions.
- A large number of additional College resources have been recruited to support the Divisional Clinical Examination (DCE) project. The change impacts of moving to virtual Long Cases are much bigger than previously envisaged. Work undertaken includes:
 - Configured College MS Teams video-conferencing platform and bookings system for the DCE, with numerous testing and trials underway.
 - Developed new DCE digital scoring sheet for examiners which is currently going through testing.
 - Procuring external vendor to provide concierge calls prior to exam go-live and on-day technical helpdesk.
 - Changes to internal IT systems to support candidate and examiner scheduling and results processing.
 - Updates to the CLEAR Criteria for Assessment to align to move to virtual Long Cases.
 - Numerous change and communications artefacts.
 - Providing briefs and presentations to multiple Committee meetings, including continued liaison with the College Trainees' Committee.
- DCE go/no go criteria was developed for the College Education Committee (CEC) on 16 October 2020. It was agreed that the virtual model works as a robust and valid Long Case exam, but more time is required for testing of solution and should not 'go' with videoconferencing on Saturday, 14 November 2020, as had initially planned. The following recommendations from the DCE Committees have been approved by the CEC:
 - Approve Australian Adult Medicine DCE Long Cases starting on the previously announced start date of Saturday, 14 November 2020, but using phone instead of videoconferencing.
 - Approve New Zealand Adult Medicine DCE Long Cases starting on their previously announced start date of the Saturday, 21 November 2020, but using phone instead of videoconferencing.
 - Approve Paediatrics & Child Health DCE Long Cases being delayed until the Friday, 4 December 2020 and proceeding with the MS Teams videoconferencing model. November hosting hospitals will be rescheduled to a later date.
 - Hold a further go/no go checkpoint based on these decisions at the Friday, 6 November 2020 CEC.
- Numerous DCE video-conferencing and phone trials scheduled with hospitals for October and November to inform second go/no go checkpoint.
- DCE registrations opened on 11 August 2020 in Aotearoa New Zealand and 25 August 2020 in Australia and closed on 8 September 2020. 913 candidates registered for AMD and 256 for PCH in Australia, 91 registered for AMD and 42 for PCH in Aotearoa New Zealand. The Australian numbers were much higher than expected, likely due to the decision that the exam attempt will not count.
- There has been numerous correspondence with hospitals to agree to being a 'hosting' and 'sitting' site for the DCE. The College is still waiting for further capacity to come in for Adult Medicine in Australia, to support all candidates being able to sit the exam. Allocations are very complex this year, due to not having full capacity yet. Dates are being spread out and hosting sites getting to select when available, combined with candidate preferences. A set of business rules have been agreed on for how allocations will be prioritised, including allocating those with provisional Advanced Training positions first.
- Letters sent to Chief Medical/Public Health Officer in all Australian State Health Departments and New Zealand Health Districts to gather their feedback on progressing with the face-to-face DCE Short Cases in February 2021.
- The scheduled six-month review of interim changes to program requirements was undertaken at the Training and Accreditation Advisory Group on the 28 September to determine what should roll over to 2021. Their recommendations were approved by the CEC on the 16 October 2020.
- New exam online learning resources launched for the Divisional Written and Clinical Exams, including videos to help candidates sitting Long Cases.
- A further Board update on the DCE was given on 26 October 2020.

Professional Practice

Trainees

- A trainee/DPE webinar was held on 21 October 2020 to provide a further update on the Divisional Clinical Examination.

Member meetings

- RACP Congress 2020: A COVID-19 symposium is being delivered over three webinars. The first two covered sequelae and vaccine development, with the third exploring COVID-19's effect on models of care.
- Planning for RACP Congress 2021 is well underway. This will be a hybrid event presented over six days, over a two-week period, across six cities (Brisbane, Perth, Adelaide, Melbourne, Sydney and Wellington), with the full program available virtually as well. IMiA 2021 will be a fully hybrid event. These approaches allow mitigation of continuing uncertainty around convening larger scale events, regarding both potential for restrictions on gatherings changing at short notice in response to a COVID-19 resurgence and financial viability of presenting socially distanced events.

Members

- The 2020 Advanced Training Selection and Matching (ATSM) service has now concluded.
- A national New Fellows Forum was presented via Zoom on 20 October 2020. The event received a resounding 90 per cent referral rate from attendees. Many traditionally regionally based face-to-face events, such as this one, have moved to a national audience via Zoom very successfully this year.

Online Resources

- The [Divisional Examination Readiness online learning resource](#) launched in September 2020. This resource provides Basic Trainees with information, resources, video demonstrations and study tools to assist them in preparing for, and sitting, the Divisional Written and Clinical Examinations.

RACP Facilities and staff

- A Remote Working Group has been established to address remote work as a business-as-usual item post COVID-19.
- Aotearoa New Zealand is currently at Alert Level 1, hence has no domestic restrictions.
- Level 6, 70 Phillip Street, Sydney has been placed into hibernation until the capacity is required.

RACP Resources

- [College COVID-19 webpage](#)
- [National COVID-19 Clinical Evidence Taskforce – evidence-based clinical guidelines](#)
 - [Living Guidelines](#) – High-priority, evidence-based clinical COVID-19 guidelines updated weekly with the latest research.