



The Royal New Zealand
College of General Practitioners

RNZCGP Research Registrar Programme

Information for Application for 2012 entry

Background

The success of primary care service delivery in New Zealand will continue to depend on having an adequately trained workforce who can improve their service to the people of New Zealand through critical inquiry and training of new clinicians. In the context of an ageing clinician workforce and a health system reorienting towards primary care leadership, there is some urgency to the task of building more research capacity in the sector.

The Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners has proposed four research capacity-building work streams in its Primary Care Research Strategy:

1. Partnership activities with the Health Research Council of New Zealand (HRC)
2. The General Practice Research Registrar programme
3. Maintenance of already-built research capacity
4. Leveraging excellence in the New Zealand primary care research workforce through international exchanges.

The General Practice Research Registrar Programme

The purpose of the Research Registrar Programme is to build a general practitioner workforce with the advanced skills needed to meet the **research** demands of a primary care-led health system and new academic demands as undergraduate medical education becomes increasingly community-based and the number of general practice vocational training places increases.

The Programme

The Research Registrar Programme has the following characteristics and allows attainment of vocational registration within the same time period as other General Practice registrars.

1. There will be up to 10 Research Registrar places available each year.
2. Research Registrar positions will be geographically distributed throughout New Zealand, with no more than two new places available in any year in any single College faculty region. This is to make sure that the Research Registrar Programme remains accessible to GP trainees throughout New Zealand and that Research Registrar posts are held in the variety of settings that fully trained general practitioners work in.
3. The generic programme of a Research Registrar will be:
 - 2 days per week (4/10) practising in a general practice* clinical setting. The practice setting must be CORNERSTONE accredited, Working less than this will require the Registrar to suspend their enrolment in the Research Registrar Programme, but they may continue in GPEP2 as long as they are working at least 2/10 in clinical practice.
 - 2 days per week (4/10) working in an academic or management/organisational setting.
 - 1 day per week (2/10) engaged in formal academic study.

**as described by the RNZCGP definition of the discipline and specialty of general practice, available on the College website <http://www.rnzcgp.org.nz/definition-of-a-general-practitioner/>*

4. The clinical work and the research work must be undertaken concurrently.
5. All registrars in the General Practice Education Programme (Stage 2) (GPEP2) will have the same clinical assessments.
6. The academic or management/organisational settings Research Registrars work in will be approved by the College as supportive environments for Research Registrar training. Research Registrars will receive payments for their research time from their sponsors, according to the arrangements negotiated between the Research Registrar and the sponsor. Normally this payment will cover a stipend or salary for 3 days/week (2 days in the academic or organizational setting plus one day study) plus approved study fees. Approved settings are likely to include:
 - a. any of the five university Departments of General Practice
 - b. ACC or the Ministry of Health
 - c. DHBs
 - d. PHOs
 - e. primary health care service management organisationsThe Research Registrar is required to submit a half yearly research report to the College. By the end of the programme, the Research Registrar is expected to have had a paper accepted for publication in a peer-reviewed scientific journal.
7. The formal academic study that Research Registrars enrol in requires approval by the College as providing advanced academic training, usually via the papers and courses delivered by any of the five Departments of General Practice. Research Registrars are not expected to *complete* a postgraduate degree during their GPEP2 programme. Postgraduate study in public or population health *only* is not likely to be approved because these courses are not designed for General Practice Registrars. However, public health papers that can be cross-credited to a general practice course may be approved. Suitable papers include those run as part of a:
 - a. Masters degree in General Practice
 - b. Masters degree in Health Sciences (endorsed in General Practice)
 - c. PhD

Application Process

GPEP1 candidates interested in taking up one of these positions should directly contact a sponsoring organisation to make arrangements (see section 6 above).

Research Registrars will arrange their own formal study and clinical work/academic work/study balance, with the proviso that at least 2 days per week (4/10) will be spent in a clinical setting.

Application to the programme is strongly encouraged when the candidate is reaching the end of their GPEP1 year. Others will be considered on a case by case basis.

Once accepted, assistance will be provided with choosing suitable post-graduate studies before the start of the academic year.

Completed application forms should be sent to:

GPEP2
RNZCGP
PO Box 10440
Wellington 6143

gpep2@rnzcgp.org.nz

Selection Process

Applications are assessed by a selection committee which usually comprises the Chair of the Education Expert Advisory Group, the Group Manager - Professional Development, the Manager – Vocational Training, and a research expert external to the College (currently Associate Professor Susan Dovey, Otago University).

Selection Criteria

- The Research Registrar Programme is available to graduates of the General Practice Education Programme Stage 1 (GPEP1). Others will be considered on a case by case basis.
- Acceptance to the programme is subject to a pass in the Primary Membership Examination (PRIMEX).
- No 'grandparenting' or retrospective admittance to the Research Registrar Programme is possible.
- The clinical work and research work must be undertaken concurrently.
- Geographical spread will be taken into account.
- Acceptance to the programme is subject to receipt of written evidence of clinical employment in a CORNERSTONE accredited general practice.
- The organisation hosting the research component must be identified within the application, and acceptance to the programme is subject to a letter of confirmation from this organisation.