



# ANZCA Research Strategy

## April 2017

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### Introduction

Research is a key pillar underpinning ANZCA's mission. The College is actively involved in supporting research through the Research Committee grants process, the ANZCA Clinical Trials Network (CTN), the Scholar role within the training curriculum, and the ANZCA Research Foundation. It is promoted through our many scientific meetings, especially the annual scientific meeting, and supported by ANZCA Research Foundation fund-raising and the Fellows. This affects both ANZCA and the Faculty of Pain Medicine. The CTN Executive has developed a vision and strategic priorities, and the Foundation has developed vision and mission statements.

This overarching ANZCA research strategy is the basis of, and a guide for, ANZCA research activities, planning, and decisions.

### Key Research Principles

The research strategy is based on several key principles. These **principles** are to:

- **Encourage research in anaesthesia, pain and perioperative medicine which benefits the community by leading to improved effectiveness, quality and safety in clinical care;**
- **Develop research skills in the specialty of anaesthesia, pain and perioperative medicine;**
- **Contribute to research capacity and capability in the anaesthesia, pain and perioperative medicine community**

Underpinning these principles are a number of elements:

- To encourage research in anaesthesia, pain and perioperative medicine which benefits the community ...
  - ensure research is of high quality
  - provide guidance as to appropriate areas for research
  - effectively communicate research activity and outcomes
- To develop research skills in the specialty of anaesthesia, pain and perioperative medicine.
  - consider research throughout the College and Faculty
  - support and develop specialist researchers
  - encourage post-graduate qualifications in research
- To contribute to research capacity and capability in the anaesthesia, pain and perioperative medicine community
  - Ensure sustainable resources to support research activity
  - Provide a competitive funding process and other resources for research
  - Encourage and support collaborative research activity

## Strategic Aims

From the above, the following strategic aims have been identified to support the Key Research Principles.

### **1. To promote high quality research**

- through the Research Committee, Clinical Trials Network and Scholar Role subcommittee, provide guidance to review and advise on research projects at all levels
- maximise the efficient use of the resources available for supporting research
- support both basic science and clinical research

### **2. To identify and target key research areas**

- identify key domains of research to guide research investigations
  - to guide ANZCA Research Foundation fundraising
  - to aid Research Committee prioritisation
- demonstrate relevant benefits to the community
  - by supporting translational research
  - to improve access to care

### **3. To communicate and disseminate research activity and outcomes widely**

- Communicate and disseminate research activity and outcomes within Australia, New Zealand and the wider international community, including especially the community-at-large, utilising a broad range of professional and other media

### **4. To ensure that research is considered throughout the College and Faculty at all steps in policy and strategic planning**

- Consider research and research-related values in decision making and policy development College and Faculty-wide, at all career stages

### **5. To Support and develop specialist researchers at all career stages**

- Encourage and develop
  - trainee and novice involvement in research
  - academic progression in research
- Development of an Emerging Investigators Subcommittee to interconnect the research opportunities and pathways throughout the College

### **6. To encourage post-graduate qualifications in research**

- Provide advice and resources to support specialist anaesthetists and pain medicine specialists to achieve higher degree qualifications in research-related areas

### **7. To develop sustainable resources to support research activity**

- Develop the supporting role of the ANZCA Research Foundation
- Develop sustainable resources to support research activity through funding; grant support; and advocacy; including Government

**8. To provide a competitive funding process and other resources for research**

- support ongoing growth in Research Committee and CTN grant and Pilot Grant competitive funding processes in addition to other sources of support
- develop on-line research resources and access to consultations for advice to applicants

**9. To encourage and facilitate collaborative research**

- Encourage collaborative research activity within ANZCA, Australia and New Zealand, and internationally, and via the ANZCA Clinical Trials Network, researchers and external organisations. Collaborative research includes between hospitals, internationally and across specialties.

**10. To audit and review research strategy processes and outcomes**

- Ensure that the aims are being met
- Identify areas of strength and weakness in individual areas and act on these findings

## Background

The research strategy has been developed in consultation with stakeholder groups within and outside ANZCA who play important roles in ANZCA medical research.

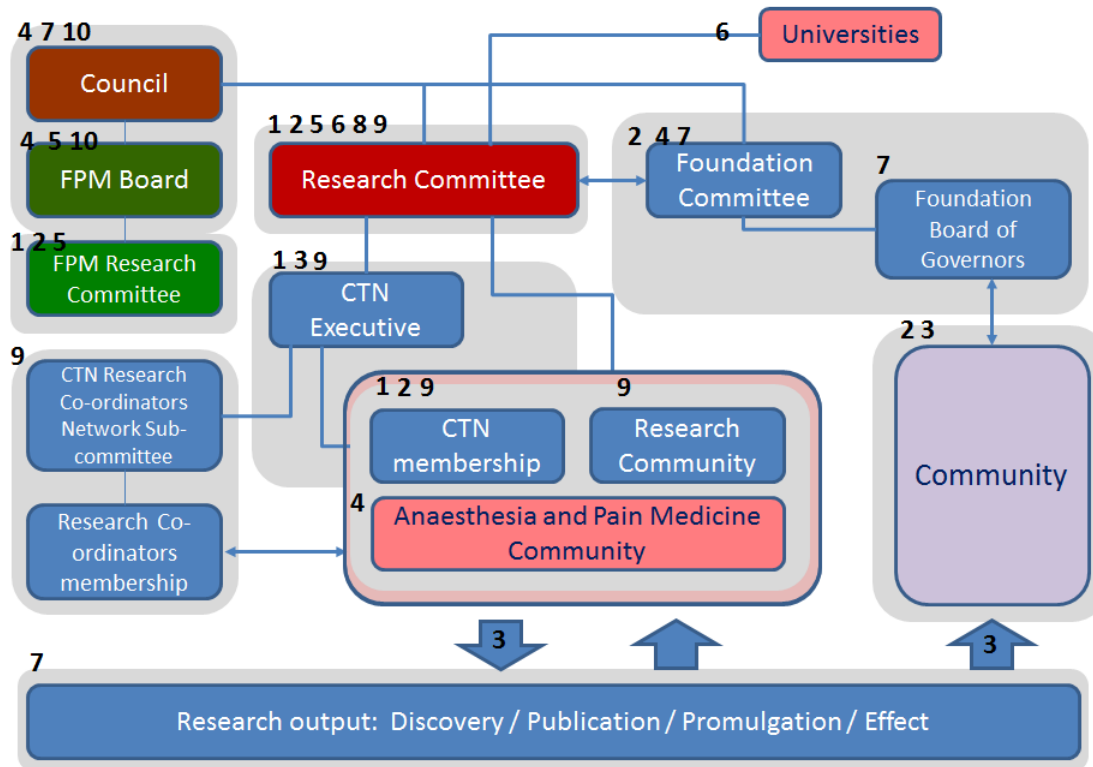
The principles and aims of this strategy were presented and discussed at the ANZCA Clinical Trials Network Conference in August 2016 in open session, and have been considered further by the Research Committee, Foundation Committee, Clinical Trials Network Executive, and the Faculty of Pain Medicine.

Several other medical colleges and societies have published research strategies, the most coherent being that of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians. The RACS, AAGBI and RCoA also all make reference to research strategy. These have been considered in the formation of this strategy.

## Overview

The relationships between the groups within and outside ANZCA are outlined in the figure below (with the numbers identifying the main points where the strategic research aims interact):

## Research and ANZCA – Strategy mapping



### ANZCA research Strategy

These strategic priorities and aims, and how they map onto the ANZCA research structure and relationships, are summarised as follows:

**To encourage research in anaesthesia, pain and perioperative medicine; which benefits the community by leading to improved effectiveness, quality and safety in clinical care:**

1. To promote high quality research
2. To identify and target key research areas
3. To communicate and disseminate research activity and outcomes widely

**To develop research skills in the specialty of anaesthesia and pain medicine:**

4. To consider research throughout the College and Faculty at all steps in policy and strategic planning
5. To support and develop specialist researchers at all career stages
6. To encourage postgraduate qualification in research

**Contribute to research capacity and capability in the anaesthesia and pain medicine community:**

7. To develop sustainable resources to support research activity
8. To maintain and improve a competitive process for funding and resources
9. To encourage collaborative research

**Ongoing audit and review**

10. To audit and review research strategy processes and outcomes

## **APPENDIX: CONTEXT FOR THE ANZCA RESEARCH STRATEGY**

### **Clinical Trials Network**

The primary goal of the ANZCA Clinical Trials Network is to improve the evidence base of anaesthesia by endorsing high quality, multicentre randomised controlled trials and related research. The ANZCA Clinical Trials Network also provides research infrastructure support for Fellows and trainees of the College for survey research purposes and administers the Pilot Grant Scheme.

The vision for the Clinical Trials Network is:

'The ANZCA Clinical Trials Network will be a world leader in delivering high quality trial evidence that translates into safe and effective practice in anaesthesia, perioperative and pain medicine.'

The strategic priorities for the Clinical Trials Network for 2014-2017 are:

- To deliver high quality evidence to guide safe and effective practice
- A capable network of leaders, sites and collaborations
- Engagement of our stakeholders in Clinical Trial Network activities
- A sustainable Clinical Trials Network infrastructure

### **Research Committee**

The Research Committee has many roles. These include: assessment of research applications for projects related to anaesthesia, resuscitation, perioperative medicine, intensive care or pain medicine carried out in Australia or New Zealand; recommendations to the Council on the award of project grants, scholarships/fellowships and the Harry Daly Research Fellowship; the development of policy on research issues for consideration by Council; advice to other College committees on research matters; and liaison with the CTN and Foundation.

### **ANZCA Research Foundation**

The mission of the ANZCA Research Foundation is:

- To support medical research and education that saves lives, helps people to optimise their health and work to make life as pain-free as possible.

This is achieved by raising funds to:

- Increase the safety and comfort of patients undergoing anaesthesia and sedation
- Improve outcomes for critically ill patients following surgery or trauma
- Improve the treatment of acute pain, cancer pain and persistent non-cancer pain.

The Foundation's vision is:

To be a leader in funding research and education in anaesthesia, perioperative and pain medicine.

This vision is pursued by supporting the delivery of sustainable health benefits, and helping to attract and develop leading researchers.

### **ANZCA Training Curriculum**

The curriculum has a number of research-related activities that are predominantly encompassed under the Scholar Role activities and currently managed by the Scholar Role subcommittee.