

Division	Fellowship Experience	Ref. No.	POL-3074
Department	RACS Western Australia State Office		
Title	Gordon Baron-Hay Medal		

1. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The policy details the awarding of the Gordon Baron-Hay Medal.

2. KEYWORDS

Gordon Baron-Hay, Medal, Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM), South West General Surgery Conference (SWGSC).

3. BODY OF POLICY

The Gordon Baron-Hay Medal is presented at either the Western Australian (WA) Papers Day or at the conclusion of the 'Free Papers' session of a conference held in WA, such as the RACS WA, SA and NT Annual Scientific Meeting or the South West General Surgery Conference (SWGSC).

The recipient receives a medal engraved with his/her name and the year of the award.

A call for abstracts is circulated to the RACS WA membership, Surgical Heads of Departments and WA medical universities, encouraging presenters who fulfil the eligibility criteria to submit an abstract.

Abstracts are assessed by the convener and/or executive committee/panel of consultant surgeons using the criteria of assessment.

Each judge will score each of these criteria from 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent).

1. Clarity of background, presentation and development of the scientific argument/research question
2. Quality of content
3. Current or probable future relevance to clinical practice
4. Strength of the science
5. Adherence to length of abstract (300 words)

3.1. Background

The Gordon Baron-Hay Medal was first proposed by the State Committee in 2010 replacing the longstanding RACS Registrars Papers Day Award. Professor Gordon Baron-Hay was a well-known and highly respected paediatric surgeon, who was dedicated in the training of surgeons in Western Australia. Professor Baron-Hay was Chair of the WA State Committee from 1993-1995 and was a committed committee member for nine years.

3.2. Eligibility

The medal is awarded to the best paper presented from:

- A medical student attending a medical school in WA
- A junior doctor, intern, service registrar or medical officer
- A Trainee actively participating in the Surgical Education and Training (SET) program (including interrupted training for the purpose of undertaking research)
- A Specialist International Medical Graduate (SIMG) on a pathway to Fellowship or
- A Fellow who has obtained their FRACS within the last two years.

The **scientific research / lab based / clinical research** work that forms the basis of the paper must have been undertaken in WA by the applicant in the last 12 months.

3.3. Objectives and criteria

- 3.3.1 In the event of a standalone Papers Day the event will be Chaired by the WA State Chair or a designated committee member if the Chair is unavailable. A minimum of three judges will be appointed, and the event will typically be held on a Saturday in the WA Office.

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- 3.3.2 Abstracts that are selected are to be presented as an oral PowerPoint presentation. Each presentation will be given in person at the event and is rated by the judges from 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent) on the following:
1. Presentation skills (including adherence to time)
 2. Research Content
 3. Originality
 4. Clinical Relevance
- 3.3.3 To decide the winner the judges scores will be tallied together and the medal will be awarded to the recipient with the highest average score.
- 3.3.4 In the event of a tie, the event convenor will have the deciding vote, or if all the judges and the convenor are in agreement joint winners can be awarded.
- 3.3.5 The recipient of the medal is announced at the conclusion of the event where the presentations were given—WA Papers Day or a conference held in WA.
- 3.3.6 Where the Gordon Baron-Hay Medal is awarded at an Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM), entrants from other jurisdictions, particularly South Australia and the Northern Territory may submit abstracts, present, and win the Free Papers session.

4. The Gordon Baron-Hay Medal is a Western Australian award and will only be awarded to an eligible Western Australian entrant. The medal will therefore be presented to the highest scoring eligible Western Australian presenter, as determined by the judging panel.

Approver State and Territory Manager WA, SA & NT
Authoriser WA State Committee