

Application for Founding Fellows of the RCPA Faculty of Post-mortem imaging

Criteria for Second Round of Founding Fellowship

This document sets out the criteria by which medical practitioners will be admitted in the second round of the Founding Fellowship of the Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia Faculty of Post-mortem Imaging (FPMI). Achievement of Fellowship by this method will continue until 18 November 2022, after which Fellowship can only be attained by Faculty examination.

A Founding Fellow is expected to be of an exemplary high standard to be in a position to establish standards and entry parameters for future fellows of the Faculty of Post-mortem Imaging.

1. Qualification

To be eligible for consideration, a candidate for Founding Fellowship of the RCPA Faculty of Post-mortem imaging must demonstrate the following:

a) the applicant:

- i. is a registered medical practitioner of a State or Territory of Australia, or of New Zealand or Hong Kong or Singapore or Malaysia and is entitled to practice medicine in his or her country of domicile; and
- ii. holds a medical qualification/s regarded as satisfactory by the Board of Directors;

and

b) is

- i. a Fellow of the RCPA; or
- ii. a Fellow of the RANZCR or equivalent of Fellow of RANZCR, by virtue of that person holding a qualification that is substantially comparable to the qualification of Fellow of RANZCR, (as determined by RANZCR);

and

c) satisfies any other terms and conditions prescribed by the Board of Directors pursuant to Section 7.2 of the [Faculty By-Laws](#).

An eligible candidate for the Founding Fellowship of the RCPA Faculty of Post-mortem imaging is required to demonstrate:

- I. at least five years of total involvement with post-mortem imaging; including
- II. a minimum of three years of direct involvement with post-mortem imaging (exemplified by interpreting more than 300 cases).

2. Medical Practice and Other Documentary Evidence

An eligible candidate is also expected to show the equivalent of at least ten years of full-time practice post-Fellowship in the field of Forensic Pathology or Clinical Radiology. However, this requirement for maturity may be offset by direct involvement in post-mortem imaging above the minimum requirement of three years. Nonetheless, the minimum required time of full-time practice post Fellowship will be seven years.

In addition, an eligible candidate will demonstrate all of the following:

- a) Evidence of participation in education¹ relevant to post-mortem imaging;
- b) Evidence of participation in research relevant to post-mortem imaging;
- c) Involvement in teaching in the field of post-mortem imaging; and
- d) References from a senior radiologist and a senior pathologist with direct knowledge of the applicant's experience such that they can attest to the veracity of the application that is being submitted.

An eligible applicant may also offer for consideration additional evidence of involvement with post-mortem imaging, such as:

- a) Other engagements in post-mortem imaging, such as:
 - i. Participation in scoping and procurement of a CT scanner; and/or
 - ii. Use of additional techniques (such as angiography, needle biopsy etc.).
- b) Production of a 'case book' for a successful outcome of 'Virtopsy' course assessment and/or published 'case report(s) in the field of post-mortem imaging.
- c) Publications not in the field of post-mortem imaging.
- d) Membership of the International Society for Forensic Radiology and Imaging.
- e) Other references to support the application.
- f) Attendance at conferences/meetings relating to post-mortem imaging.

For eligible applicants, Founding Fellowship will be awarded based on the candidate's demonstration of meeting the criteria outlined above.

3. Other Documents Required

An application must include, as a minimum:

- Curriculum vitae (including a list of publications with publications in the field of post-mortem imaging highlighted)
- Covering Letter addressing the eligibility criteria (see criteria above)
- Two references (as stated above)
- Certified copies of degrees, other qualifications and fellowships not previously Supplied to the College.

¹ The requirement for evidence of formal education may be waived for applicants with an extensive history of direct involvement with post-mortem imaging

- Certified copies of the original certificates must be sent. Certification must be by a Justice of the Peace. Overseas applicants must have their copies certified by a Justice of the Peace or Commissioner for Oaths.

Please ensure all required information is submitted as incomplete applications will not be processed. It is not necessary to send a CV or proof of educational qualifications if these have been already submitted with a previous application.

Please note that the deadline for submission is COB 18 November 2022. As per the Faculty By-Laws, no Founding Fellows can be accepted into the Faculty after 31 December 2022.

Definitions

Direct involvement in post-mortem imaging is defined as using analysis of post-mortem CT and/or post-mortem MRI for post-mortem diagnosis and/or to inform the post-mortem examination process, with feedback of outcomes from post-mortem examinations.

Involvement with post-mortem imaging includes direct involvement and/or:

- ii. Retrospective reviewing of post-mortem imaging without informing the post-mortem examination process (approximate duration of experience and number of cases reviewed required)
and/or
- iii. Observing post-mortem imaging without informing the post-mortem examination process (approximate duration of experience and number of cases reviewed required)
and/or
- iv. Interpreting post-mortem radiological imaging other than CT (eg: plain film) for post-mortem diagnosis and/or to inform the post-mortem examination process (approximate duration of experience required)

Education* relevant to post-mortem imaging includes:

- i. Completion of 'Virtopsy' course(s)
- ii. Completion of other accredited 'Post-mortem CT' course(s)
- iii. Attendance at pathology meeting(s)/conference(s) with post-mortem imaging component
- iv. Participation in webinars relevant to post-mortem imaging component
- v. Regular attendance at 'in house' post-mortem imaging teaching sessions led by a radiologist with experience to the level of Founding Fellowship
- vi. Completion of other courses i.e.
 - For FRCPA applicants: other radiology courses, such as 'Radiopaedia' and/or 'Light box'
 - For FRANZCR (or equivalent) applicants: forensic pathology courses

Research relevant to post-mortem imaging requires demonstration of the application of the scientific method by, at least:

- i. Involvement (directly or through supervision) of the applicant in research in the field of post-mortem imaging leading to publication, or acceptance for publication, of a paper in a peer-reviewed journal – include a copy of any submitted, but not yet published, paper with your application.
or
- ii. Participation in post-mortem imaging research by the applicant resulting in acceptance of a presentation (oral or poster) of a case series or research project at an international meeting associated with an abstract published in a journal - include a copy of the abstract with your application. (NB: case reports are not accepted.)
or
- iii. Supervision of a research project by the applicant that will lead to, or has led to, a degree qualification at the level of honours, masters and/or PhD in the field of post-mortem imaging - includes an outline of a project and status of a project (completed or in progress with proportion completed) with your application
or
- iv. Qualification of the applicant at the level of honours, masters and/or PhD resulting from research in the field of post-mortem imaging - include a copy of degree certificate with your application.

Potential meetings include RCPA Pathology Update, the National Association of Medical Examiners (the NAME) annual meeting, the American Academy of Forensic Sciences (AAFS) annual meeting, Radiological Society of North America (RSNA) meeting, and American College of Radiology (ACR) meeting.

These notes are for guidance to assist applications for the second (final) round for the Founding Fellowship of the RCPA Faculty of Post-mortem Imaging. These notes are not considered to be exhaustive, binding, or absolute. The Faculty committee reserves the right to exercise its judgement in all cases.

From Section 8 of the Faculty By-laws:

- 8.3 The Directors must take into account any recommendations made by the Faculty Committee and may take into account any other matter whatsoever.
- 8.4 Any determination made by the Directors pursuant to this By-law 8 is not open to challenge by the Faculty, the Faculty Committee or any other body or person whatsoever.
- 8.5 By-law 8.2 will lapse on 31 December 2022. Persons admitted as Fellows of the Faculty under this By-law 8 will continue as Fellows of the Faculty after 31 December 2022.