

Position Statement

Subject: Joint Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia/Royal Australasian College of Physicians Trainees Access to Laboratory Training Positions

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Introduction

The RCPA and RACP have joint training programs in Chemical Pathology/Endocrinology Haematology, Immunopathology/Immunology and Allergy, Microbiology and Infectious Diseases and hopefully soon a reciprocal program in Genetic Pathology/Clinical Genetics. In addition RACP has a requirement for their trainees in Infectious Diseases and Clinical Haematology to have access for a minimum of 6 months to laboratory training. Currently both RCPA and RACP (for Basic Physician training) accredit laboratories or hospitals for training without limiting the number of trainees that can be accommodated provided there is adequate supervision and access to case material. Clinical trainee positions for both basic and advanced training are often created in hospitals to address workforce needs not only trainee needs. This causes a problem in relation to imbalances between the number of clinical trainees requiring access to laboratory positions. This causes blockages for trainees in the system and delays their ability to complete training in a timely manner. As a consequence the RCPA has decided to place some restriction on clinical trainees accessing laboratory positions.

Joint RCPA RACP Training

The RCPA will only accept new joint trainees into the program when there is a matching of the training position numbers between clinical and laboratory positions. This will need to be managed in consultation with the joint RCPA RACP Training Committees and the employers. For example if there are 10 laboratory positions available for training for joint trainees and 8 existing Joint trainees needing laboratory positions then only 2 new trainees will be accepted into the program for the year.