

## **NATIONAL RESEARCH AND EVALUATION ETHICS COMMITTEE**

### **GENERAL PRACTITIONER/RESEARCHER MEMBER ROLE DESCRIPTION**

The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) is Australia's largest professional membership body for general practitioners (GPs). We represent over 41,000 members including urban and rural GPs, medical students and registrars. The RACGP's mission is to support GPs in improving the health and wellbeing of all Australians, "Healthy Profession. Healthy Australia". We provide skills and knowledge assessment, educational training and ongoing professional development for practicing GPs. We develop resources and guidelines, help GPs with issues that affect their practice, support research to link members with the latest advancements in the field and advocate on behalf of the general practice profession to set and maintain high quality standards of health care for Australians.

#### **National Research and Evaluation Ethics Committee**

The RACGP National Research and Evaluation Ethics Committee (NREEC) evaluates general practice research projects in accordance with the National Health and Medical Research Council's National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research (2007 - updated 2018).

The NREEC's primary task is to assess the ethical principles for research involving humans in the Australian primary care setting, and to protect the welfare and rights of the participants in research. The committee also has a role in facilitating research that is or will be of benefit to the researcher's community or to humankind.

#### **Member responsibilities**

##### Members are expected to:

- Abide by the RACGP NREEC Terms of Reference.
- Be familiar with, and base decisions regarding research applications on, the National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research, and other guidelines and legislation.
- Prepare for bi-monthly meetings of the committee by reviewing electronic copies of committee papers and research applications, attend meetings by teleconference, and participate in out-of-session activities as required.

Meetings are held six times per annum on a Monday evening. Meetings are usually held by videoconference; however, a face-to-face meeting is scheduled annually, in December. Meeting dates are available at [RACGP Ethics](#) . Meetings commence at 6.00pm AEST and are usually of up to 2 hours' duration.

Approximately two weeks prior to each meeting, committee members receive electronic access to a copy of each ethics application and correspondence. The time required for reading and meeting preparation is usually between 2 to 4 hours.

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Where members cannot attend meetings, adequate notice is appreciated and if possible, members are expected to provide comment on agenda items, for consideration at the meeting.

### **General Practitioner/Researcher member responsibilities**

The role of the GP/Researcher member is an important function that contributes significantly to the work of the College. It is also an opportunity for an academic GP to further develop their career.

GP/Researcher members are expected to review submissions drawing on their expertise in general practice and understanding of research methods and rigour.

The member can be located anywhere in Australia.

### **Selection criteria**

The following criteria is desirable:

- Current experience in research in the general practice setting
- Evidence of research track record (grants won, papers/books published, research prizes etc.)
- Experience of qualitative and quantitative research methods as they apply to general practice.
- Experience on grant review panels or human research ethics committees (HRECs)
- Experience as a reviewer for peer-reviewed journals

### **Legal protection for members**

The RACGP is required by the NHMRC to provide an assurance of legal protection to all those involved in ethical review of research, for liabilities that may arise in the course of *bona fide* conduct of their duties in this capacity. The RACGP has professional indemnity insurance to cover liability of committee members within these terms.

### **Reimbursement**

Members are reimbursed for attendance at the meetings and reviewing application documentation. The rate for attendance at face-to-face meetings (including preparation) is \$400, and for attendance by teleconference, \$240. Where members are the lead reviewer/s on an application, \$80 per application is paid.

### **Expressions of interest**

To indicate your interest in this position, please forward a brief description of your experience and qualifications (1-2 pages), and curriculum vitae to:

Gail Roberts  
Senior Project Officer  
RACGP  
Email: [ethics@racgp.org.au](mailto:ethics@racgp.org.au)  
Ph: (03) 8699 0385

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