

## Position Statement

Subject: **Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP) Clinical Only Trainees Access to Laboratory Training Positions**  
Approval Date: February 2016, August 2016  
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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 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 is stating its preferred position in relation to clinical trainees accessing laboratory positions.

### RACP Clinical Only Trainees

The RCPA would want single discipline RCPA trainees and joint RCPA/RACP trainees be allocated the available laboratory positions before RACP clinical only trainees were considered for such positions. The RCPA acknowledges that within the short to medium term the compulsory 6 months laboratory training will remain within the RACP Clinical programs, and would like to work with the RACP in finding a solution to the shortage of laboratory training positions for all categories of trainees. Infectious Diseases only trainees are very welcome in RCPA accredited laboratories. However, in the event there are no vacancies for ID-only trainees following the initial allocations, it is the RCPA's position that the Infectious Diseases trainees may be seconded from the Medical Division/Department to the Laboratory with relevant funds dispersed from the Infectious Diseases Budget to the Laboratory. This is subject to agreement from the Laboratory that they have the capacity to support these additional trainees.