TRAINING OVERVIEW

A guide for training in Phlebology with the ACP

THE AUSTRALASIAN
COLLEGE OF
PHLEBOLOGY

About the Australasian College of Phlebology

Phlebology has evolved as a distinct medical specialty in the past two decades. Most European countries have a strong tradition of excellence in the management of venous disease and phlebology is a well-established medical specialty in continental Europe. The Australasian College of Phlebology (ACP) was formed in 1999 having evolved from the Sclerotherapy Society of Australia (SSA) which was established in 1993. The College was established to further reinforce and expand phlebology education in Australia and New Zealand with plans to achieve recognised accreditation for practitioners in phlebology. The College has been inclusive of all practitioners with recognised skills in this field. Fellowship criteria have been solid and transparent.

The ACP is now a multidisciplinary independent body with members sub-specialising in medical, surgical or interventional aspects of phlebology. The College is committed to providing the Australasian public with the highest quality care in phlebology. The College is also committed to continuing education in phlebology and quality assurance programs. The College is dedicated to improve and increase awareness of phlebology as a distinct specialty in Australia and New Zealand and plays an active role in both the local and international scene. In recognition of its efforts, the College was formally admitted as a member of International Union of Phlebology in 2005.

The College can train and certify practitioners in performing a range of procedures such as endovenous ablation, ultrasound guided sclerotherapy and direct vision sclerotherapy. The College has been very active in the field of training. Formal training and certification in sclerotherapy was first established in 2002. The ACP has since developed one of the most comprehensive training programs in phlebology worldwide, which has also been adopted by the UIP.

The College is re-defining the boundaries of phlebology as a medical specialty and aims to serve the community by improving the standards of care for patients with venous disease.

Please note the ACP is not a higher education provider and courses offered are intended to only provide medical education and training in the related field.

Overview of Phlebology Training

The ACP is committed to maintaining the highest standards of education and training in phlebology. Fellowship of the ACP is achieved following a period of supervised training and the successful completion of several examinations, both written and clinical, in all aspects of the principles and practice of Phlebology. Fundamental to this is the constant review of selection, curriculum and assessment strategies of the training program.

Trainees pass through defined stages that culminate in the ACP Fellowship. These stages are structured to facilitate the progressive and cumulative acquisition of knowledge and skills. Each stage must be completed satisfactorily before the trainee can move on to the next. The training year starts on the first Monday of February each year. Applicants are invited to an interview upon meeting all the minimum criteria.

This training does not imply in any way that the college endorses or accredits the clinical skills or practice of the candidate. Please note the ACP is not a higher education provider and courses offered are intended to only provide medical education and training in the related field.

PROGRAM FEES

	Basic	Advanced	Fellowship
Prerequisite	Current registration as a medical practitioner in Australia or New Zealand	Basic Training in Phlebology Course	Advanced Training in Phlebology Course
Training period	1 year	2 years	1 year
Leads to	Certificate of Basic Training in Phlebology	Certificate of Advanced Training in Phlebology	ACP Fellowship
Application Fee	$220.00	$220.00	$220.00
Annual Training Fee	$8,800.00	$8,800.00	$8,800.00
Trainee Membership	$815.00	$905.00	$905.00
Written Exam Fee	$880.00	$880.00	$880.00
Clinical Exam Fee	$1,100.00	$1,100.00	N/A

All fees are non-refundable and inclusive of GST.

Structure of the Training Program

	Basic Training	Advanced Training	Fellowship
Training Period	1 year	2 years	1 year
Prerequisites	Possess medical registration in Australia or New Zealand. At least 3 years post-graduate experience in clinical medicine.	Certificate of Basic Training in Phlebology Medicare Provider Number (AUS)	Certificate of Advanced Training in Phlebology
Supervised Training	Attend at least **10 days** of clinical attachment at an accredited training centre	Attend **40 days** of supervised clinical training over the 2 years.	**Minimum 20 days** supervised rotations with 5 days minimum required for each rotation. 4 rotations are required to be completed. Supervisors as below or proposed by candidates and approved by the BOC. **A. Deep and Pelvic veins-** Laurencia Villalba (NSW) **B. Vascular Anomalies –** Kurosh Parsi (NSW) **2 Electives:** **C. Vascular Dermatology**- Kurosh Parsi (NSW) **D. Advanced Venous Interventions**- Simon Thibault (NSW), Steve Benson (NZ), Kurosh Parsi (NSW) **E. Advanced Phlebectomy**- Andrew Stirling (TAS) **F. Cosmetic phlebology-** Adrian Lim (NSW), Lisa Marks (SA), Kit Hofman (WA), Stefania Roberts (VIC) **G. Lipoedema-** Chris Lekich (QLD) **H. Lymphoedema-** Neil Piller (SA) **I. Other rotations as approved by the BOC**
Doppler and Duplex Ultrasound	**40 Duplex Ultrasound Scans** 30 Venous incompetence scans 10 bilateral ABI measurements *all can be unsupervised	**100 Duplex Ultrasound Examinations** including 30 DVT scans *50 can be unsupervised *50 to be supervised for CCPU logbook	
		Certificate of Clinician Performed Ultrasound (CCPU LEVU) 1-year course through ASUM	**ACP Advanced Certificate of Ultrasound in Phlebology (ACUP)** 1-year online course
Procedural Logbooks	**50 Direct vision sclerotherapy procedures** 20 under direct supervision	**100 Ultrasound guided sclerotherapy procedures** 20 under direct supervision **20 Endovenous Ablation Procedures** (laser or radiofrequency) 10 under direct supervision.	**Observation and assistance in:** **A. Deep and Pelvic veins** • 5 deep vein procedures including IVUS • 5 embolisations **B. Vascular Anomalies** • 5 embolisations of venous malformation • 5 embolisation of lymphatic or arterio-venous malformations **C. Vascular Dermatology** • 5 case reviews of complex cases • 5 biopsies of skin lesions **D. Advanced Venous Interventions** • 10 procedures including any of the following- laser or RF ablation of complex or recurrent veins, tumescent assisted

			sclerotherapy; sclerotherapy of facial veins, sclerotherapy of vulvar veins **E. Advanced Phlebectomy** • 10 cases **F. Cosmetic Phlebology** • 10 procedures including vascular laser for telangiectasias, vascular lasers for capillary malformations, cosmetic sclerotherapy **G. Lipoedema** • 5 lipoedema procedures • 5 case reviews **H. Lymphoedema** • Observation of the clinical management of 5 complex cases **I. Other** • 10 complex cases Logbooks are only required for the selected rotations.
Publications and Presentations		**1 Presentation at ACP ASM**	**Compulsory** • Oral or poster presentation (poster only accepted if not previously presented) during ACPASM. **Plus 1 of the following:** • Publish a scientific article: in a peer-reviewed journal • Complete a postgraduate subject or course such as Clinical Epidemiology, Biostatistics, Research Methods, or Evidence based medicine, Critical thinking and Research Analysis, Australian College of Legal Medicine- Basic or Advanced Course
Courses and Workshops	• Online education Year 1 • Attend 1 Annual Scientific Meeting	• Online education Years 2 & 3 • Pass in Advanced Life Support (ALS1) • Laser Safety Course • Attend 1 Annual Scientific Meeting	• Online education Year 4 • Attend 1 Annual Scientific Meeting
Assessments and Examinations	1 SITA assessment per year	1 SITA assessment per year	1 SITA assessment per rotation
	PROPA assessment once per year 1. Direct Vision Sclerotherapy	PROPA assessments once per year 1. Endovenous Laser Ablation (EVLA) 2. Radiofrequency Ablation (RFA) 3. Ultrasound Guided Sclero (UGS) 4. Ultrasound - CVI 5. Ultrasound - DVT	
	Written Examinations (Online) 1. Sclerotherapy MCQ 2. OSCE 3. Short Answer	Written Examinations (Online) 1. Procedural Phlebology MCQ 2. Pharmacology and Therapeutics MCQ 3. OSCE 4. Short Answer	Written Examinations (Online) 1. Phlebological Medicine Short Essays
	Clinical Examinations 1. Short Cases	Clinical Examinations 1. Duplex Ultrasound Cases 2. Short Cases	

Training Program Pre-requisites

A number of pre-requisites must be satisfied in order to be eligible to apply for a training program with the Australasian College of Phlebology.

Applicants must:

- have resident status in Australia or New Zealand
- have current registration as a medical practitioner in Australia or New Zealand
- have a recognised medical post graduate qualification (eg FRACGP) or more than 3 years post graduate experience in clinical medicine
- Medicare Provider Number (for advanced and fellowship trainees)

A person who has satisfied the above prerequisites is eligible to apply for admission to the College Training Program.

Legal Liability:
Onus is on the clinic and is not on the College to act regarding trainees' employment conditions in clinics. Employment conditions and obtaining medicare provider numbers are a matter of the individual trainee and/or the clinic to negotiate/arbitrate. The training position is and always will be independent of any employment contracts set out by the supervisor and if there are any concerns, please raise them with the college prior.

Training Positions

Unfortunately, due to the limited number of positions we cannot guarantee you will get a placement in the training program. If there are available positions in another state, you may apply to travel for your supervised clinical days in another state. All travel expenses are the responsibility of the trainee.

Once the training interviews have taken place, we are able to determine the placement of applicants.

If you have already been in contact with a Fellow of the College and have arranged a position with them you will still need to go through the same application process, however, indicate in the application that you have a prearrangement with the Fellow to be your Training Supervisor. Please notify the College as soon as you have made this arrangement so we may take this into account when allocating positions.

Part-time Training

The ACP allows trainees to participate in part-time training provided the following criteria:

- A part-time trainee is not eligible to sit for the written or clinical examinations until the final year of their training.
- A part-time Trainee has to perform at least 50% of the full-time workload each year.
- A part-time Trainee is expected to attend at least 50% of tutorials, clinical meetings and other educational meetings held at their training centre or organized by their State Faculty.
- A part-time Trainee is expected to work continuously during their part time position (with the usual provisions for leave).
- A suitable timetable for the part-time position is to be developed by the Supervisor of Training. This should occur as soon as practicable after selection and position allocation is completed.
- The overall duration of training must not exceed:
    - 2 years for basic training
    - 4 years for advanced training
    - 2 years for fellowship training
- It is appreciated that unforeseen circumstances may arise that lead to a request by a Trainee to undertake part-time training outside the time frame referred to above. All requests should be submitted in writing to the college. All requests will be carefully considered but approval of the request cannot be guaranteed.
- Applications to change the format of training must be made in writing to the college. Such applications must be made by 1 July in the year prior to the proposed shared/part-time training.
- If a part-time trainee decides that they would be able to meet all requirements of full-time training in one year and would like to switch to full-time training, they would need to apply in writing to the college by 1 June of the first training year. This would only be considered if the trainees' current supervisor is able to accommodate the position of a full-time trainee.

Selection Process of Trainees

The selection process involves an application and an interview. Prospective trainees are required to complete the ACP training application form and must agree to the program fees. The selection process is transparent and involves the following steps:

APPLICATIONS OPEN
Mid October each year applications for training open.

COMPLETE THE APPLICATION FORM AND SUBMIT SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION
Applicants are required to complete the training application form online and must attach all requested documents to support their application.

INTERVIEWS
Upon approval of meeting the prerequisites, the applicants are invited to an interview to be conducted by the Selection Committee.

ALLOCATION OF POSITIONS
Due to the limited number of training positions suitable applicants will be placed in available positions based on their location. If there are no positions located within their chosen state they will be offered a position (if available) in another state if they are willing to accept.

RESULT NOTIFICATION, DECLARATION AND CODE OF CONDUCT
Acceptance or rejection letters will be sent to all applicants. The Trainee Declaration and Code of Conduct forms are to be signed and returned to the college office prior to commencing training.

PAYMENT OF FEES
On appointment to the Training Program and payment of the training levy and other fees, the successful candidate becomes a trainee of ACP. Access to the online education will be available once signing up as a trainee member.

Clinical Attachment

Each trainee must complete a prescribed number of supervised clinical training days under the supervision of an ACP Fellow/s. This training is done at an Accredited Training Centre (ATC) which the College will allocate to the trainee. Trainees are encouraged to visit more than one practise during the training period. The days of supervised training may be completed in a block or spread over a number of weeks depending on what is feasible for the relevant ATC. These days will be organised by the trainee directly with their allocated Supervisor of Training.

At the completion of the clinical attachment, if the trainee has not, in the opinion of the supervisor, achieved reasonable competence in performing direct vision sclerotherapy, then additional attachment days should be added to the training. This process should be continued until the trainee is deemed to be competent in performing this procedure.

The duties of the trainee for example in Basic Training will be to assist the supervisor in managing patients, taking history, doing a physical examination, performing a basic screening Duplex Ultrasound examination, assisting with and performing direct vision sclerotherapy and other duties allocated by the supervisor.

For this attachment, it is the responsibility of the trainee to make sure the following documentation is available to be presented to the ATC:

- Australian or New Zealand Medical Registration in the relevant country where the ATC is located.
- Provider number for the relevant ATC for billing purposes.
- Medical indemnity to work at the ATC.
- Provide a copy of Workers compensation Basic of currency to work at the ATC

The trainee is responsible for all the fees required to obtain these documents.

Note for Basic Training

The Board of Censors accepts that there are significant practical difficulties involved in having supervisors observe trainees performing 20 sclerotherapy cases. This is especially the case when the trainee is required to travel either interstate or long distances within their state to undergo their clinical attachment, therefore making it very difficult to supply their own patients. The Chief Censor is satisfied that for the 20 mandatory logbook cases of "observed sclerotherapy" in the sclerotherapy certificate course, that those cases be made up of either the supervisor observing the trainee perform direct vision sclerotherapy or the trainee observing the supervisor perform direct vision sclerotherapy, or a combination of the two. The supervisor will still be required at the end of the training period to be satisfied that the trainee is reasonably competent to perform direct vision sclerotherapy and sign the assessment of competence forms.

Examinations

GENERAL INFORMATION

Examination consists of Modular Online Training Assessments and Course Reviews, a Written, and a Clinical examination. A pass in the Written Component (Online Modular plus Written Exam) is required before a candidate is invited to sit the Clinical Examination (not applicable to fellowship candidates).

EXAMINATION DATES

A pass in the online training module assessments and written examinations is valid for three years, during which time the candidate can sit for the Clinical Examination without having to repeat the modular assessments or written exams. The date of the Clinical examination is announced by the Board of Censors and is available on the College website. In general, the written examinations are held online in October and the Clinical examinations are held (generally in Sydney) in November.

Application forms and payment must be received by the College office 3 months prior to the examinations or by the date as specified by the Board of Censors.

CERTIFICATION

Successful candidates who have met the minimum requirements for Basic Training will be awarded the Certificate of Basic Training in Phlebology and become an Ordinary Member of the Australasian College of Phlebology. Completing the Basic Training course does not qualify the candidate to perform ultrasound guided sclerotherapy or other advanced venous procedures.

After having satisfied all requirements of the Advanced Training the candidate will have achieved the Certificate of Advanced Training in Phlebology of the Australasian College of Phlebology.

The title 'Phlebologist' is reserved only for the Fellows of the College and should not be used by the trainees or holders of the Basic or Advanced training certificates until Fellowship is achieved.

More detailed information is in the training handbook which will be sent to you once approved for training.

Contact

For assistance, please contact the Executive Manager, Mrs Zivka Nicholls on the details below.

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