The PSANZ David Henderson-Smart Scholarship

Background: Emeritus Professor David Henderson-Smart has a long history of association with the Perinatal Society of Australia and New Zealand (PSANZ). He is a founding member of the Australian Perinatal Society and has championed the development of new researchers in all disciplines. In 2007 he retired from active academic and clinical work and was honoured with a 'festschrift' to celebrate his work. The proceeds resulting from this day were generously donated by the organising committee (at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital) to PSANZ to establish a fund in his honour.

This fund has now become the *David Henderson-Smart Scholarship* to enable his vision of perinatal research and evidenced based practice to be realised. This scholarship is focussed on assisting our brightest early career researchers in developing a research career in perinatal medicine.

Purpose: the PSANZ DHS Scholarship will be used to fund first time researchers who have not previously been a Senior Chief Investigator on a grant from a major national or international granting body (e.g. NHMRC, ARC, NHF, NIH, and MRC).

The applicant must be the lead researcher on the project and primary beneficiary of the funds for one of the following purposes:

i. To undertake an extended study tour or laboratory visit resulting in the publication of a report, preferably a peer-reviewed manuscript.
ii. To attend an international conference to present a paper and visit the laboratory or clinical centre of an internationally renowned researcher.
iii. To provide seed funding to assist the development of an independent research project which leads to publication of a peer-reviewed manuscript or to submission of a grant application. (Note that the scholarship is not designed to fund the entire project and so the applicant will need to identify other sources of confirmed funding).
iv. To assist in paying a stipend or course fee leading to a higher degree in perinatology. How the degree relates to perinatology should be clearly specified for the understanding of a multidisciplinary committee. The applicant must indicate whether they have applied for any other scholarships or bursaries to cover these fees.

Scholarship: the scholarship will be awarded annually.

- Applications are to be e-mailed to the PSANZ Secretary at PSANZsecretary@wcha.asn.au by 30 November 2011.
- Selections will be made by 31 December 2011 and the successful applicant/s notified in January 2012.

- Announcement and presentation of the award/s will be made to recipient/s at the PSANZ annual congress dinner. Recipient/s are to attend the congress dinner to be presented with the award.
- It is anticipated that winners will be invited to present at a subsequent PSANZ annual congress, following completion of the award, although this may depend on program availability and is not guaranteed.

Eligibility:

- A current financial member of PSANZ in any discipline.
- Preference will be given to active members who regularly participate in PSANZ activities (e.g. presentations at the PSANZ Congress).
- A demonstrated commitment to perinatology.
- Beginning a research career (In keeping with the eligibility Criteria for a PSANZ Early Researcher Career, applicants must not hold a University academic appointment higher than research fellow or lecturer (or equivalent) or a university adjunct appointment no higher than adjunct senior research fellow or adjunct senior lecturer.
    - **Eligibility by category:**
        - **ERC Basic Science -** Enrolled (full or part time) in a post-graduate research degree (Masters or PhD) or within 5 years award of a Bachelor/Honours degree or 2 years of a postgraduate research degree (eg Masters or PhD);
        - **ERC Nursing/Midwifery -** Enrolled (full or part time) in a post-graduate research degree (Masters or PhD) or within 5 years of a postgraduate research degree;
          OR
          Actively involved in research (1st author for presentation of research findings at scientific meetings) for less than 5 years;
        - **ERC Clinical -** Enrolled in RACP/RANZCOG training program*
          OR
          Actively involved in research (1st author for presentation of research findings at scientific meetings) for less than 5 years;

          *For clinicians enrolled in a research higher degree (Masters or PhD), ERC status will include those within 3 years of completion of clinical training program.
        - **ERC Other -** Enrolled (full or part time) in a post-graduate research degree (Masters or PhD) or within 5 years of a postgraduate research degree;
          OR
          Actively involved in research (1st author for presentation of research findings at scientific meetings) for less than 5 years;

Amount:

The PSANZ DHS Scholarship has a value of $5000 annually or $10,000 over two years. Applicants must stipulate clearly whether they are seeking 1 or 2 years of funding and justify their request. The maximum allocated to any one applicant will be $5,000 in one year. Whether or not the applicant is successful in gaining 2 years of funding (when requested) will be at the discretion of the selection committee and based on both the merit of the applicant as well as the nature of the proposal.

Applications:

A full application will be comprised of the following documents.

- ✓ A formal application of no more than 3 pages which:
  - demonstrates applicant eligibility (as per the above criteria);
  - details the proposed use of the scholarship, in a manner suitable for assessment by a multidisciplinary selection panel (this section not to exceed two typed A4 pages, including references); and
  - presents and justifies a detailed budget (including detail of financial support from other sources, if relevant)
- ✓ A current *curriculum vitae*, to include names and contact details of two referees
- ✓ Referee reports. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that each referee uses the appropriate report form which can be downloaded from the PSANZ website or obtained from the secretary at PSANZsecretary@wcha.asn.au.

Applications, in full, must be received by the PSANZ Secretary at PSANZsecretary@wcha.asn.au by **30th November 2011**. Late applications will not be accepted.

Selection Criteria and Committee:

The selection criteria used for judging these scholarships will include the following three components:

1) The merit of the proposal (40%),
2) The merit/track record of the applicant and their perceived potential for ongoing perinatal research (40%) and
3) The relevance of the research to PSANZ and its objectives (20%).

A selection committee will be selected by the PSANZ Council with one representative from each discipline and will be chaired by the immediate past President. The committee reserves the right to not award a DHS scholarship in any one year if the committee considers that it has not received an application of sufficient merit.