



## Perinatal Society of Australia & New Zealand

### **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 (ECRs) 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 (eg NHMRC, ARC, NHF, NIH, 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 submitted to the PSANZ National Secretary by 18<sup>th</sup> of December. Selections will be made by 31st January 2010 and the successful applicant notified in early February 2010. Scholarships will begin immediately and winners will be presented with the award at the 2010 PSANZ Annual Congress in Wellington and are expected to attend that Congress. It is anticipated that winners will be invited to present a plenary presentation at a PSANZ annual Congress following completion of the award, although this may depend on program availability and is not guaranteed.

**Eligibility:**

A financial member of PSANZ in any discipline. Preference will be given to active members who regularly participate in PSANZ activities (eg presentations at the PSANZ Congress).

A demonstrated commitment to perinatology

An early career researcher (ECR). Please refer to the PSANZ website for the definition of a PSANZ ECR

**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.

Applications, in full, must be received by the Secretary, PSANZ, by the due date.

**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 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.