

Biotech Daily

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* AUSBIOTECH-GSK STUDENT EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2009

AUSBIOTECH, GLAXOSMITHKLINE

Ausbiotech and Glaxosmithkline have called for applications for their 2009 Student Excellence Awards.

A media release from Ausbiotech said “student life-scientists and bio-entrepreneurs” were invited to apply for the annual awards and present their research.

Ausbiotech said the Awards would be open until August 7, 2009 and recognize one winner in each state, to be presented with their award during a ceremony at the Ausbiotech conference in 2009 in Melbourne October 27-30, 2009.

The award covers travel, accommodation expenses and registration and each winner will be given the opportunity to display a poster of their abstract during the conference.

Ausbiotech said the award program aimed “to recognize and encourage promising researchers who are working on innovations to extend and enhance our lives, including medicines, diagnostics and medical devices, as well as solutions to address food shortages and climate change”.

A previous winner for New South Wales, University of Sydney student Leo McHugh developed a software package to assist in proteomics research. The proteins present or absent in disease samples compared to the protein profiles of normal tissue can assist scientists to elucidate the biochemical processes underlying disease.

Mr McHugh’s Pinnacle software, uses an artificial intelligence approach and his results showed more protein identifications when compared against leading packages.

Ausbiotech chief executive officer Dr Anna Lavelle said student research was “a critical factor in the life cycle that takes discoveries through the commercialization process to reach and benefit the community.”

Glaxosmithkline’s head of research and development alliances Dr Ashley Bates said his company was “proud to support the student awards”.

“While it’s always valuable to celebrate achievement in science, it is also so important to encourage an understanding of the business aspects of the bioscience field for those entering it,” Dr Bates said. “This leads to better research outcomes and a stronger people pipeline for academia and industry in Australia.”

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