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Company: AusBiotech
Publication: Web Biotechnology News
Date: 30 August 2011
Page: Online



Applications now open for the annual biotech student awards

Tuesday, 30 August 2011

STUDENT researchers in life sciences, biotechnology and bio-engineering throughout Australia are invited to apply for state and national titles in the country's leading competition of its type: the 2011 AusBiotech-GSK Student Excellence Awards.

Applications are now open for the 2011 awards.

With the support of GlaxoSmithKline, the AusBiotech-GSK Student Excellence Awards recognise the next generation of Australia's researchers and bio-innovators.

The awards are open in each state and territory of Australia. Six state winners will be invited to compete for the national title at the AusBiotech2011 Conference in Adelaide on October 16-19, 2011.

Winners of the state awards will receive payment for travel, accommodation and registration to the conference to compete for the national prize.

The national winner will receive a \$7000 travel grant to be used to present their research at an international conference. In addition, the national winner's principal supervisor will receive a \$2000 research grant.

"The winners of today will go on to become the contributors of tomorrow in innovation, both in Australia and around the world," AusBiotech CEO Dr Anna Lavelle said.

"These awards provide an important boost at the point of researchers' careers when they need it most. The winners are recognised for their talent, commitment and provided with invaluable networking and mentoring opportunities."

The 2010 award winners were:

National and South Australia – Natasha Rogers

Rogers was awarded top honours for her research into the facilitation of organ cell protection following kidney transplantation surgery. The research demonstrates the ability of curcumin, an extract of the spice turmeric, to protect kidney cells from organ damage from blood flow during surgery, called ischaemia-reperfusion injury.

NSW – Adam Collison (University of Newcastle)

Collison received the award for his research into how the modulation of a novel immune signalling pathway attenuates the development of allergic airways disease.

Queensland – Jeremy Barr (University of Queensland)

Barr was recognised for research into metatranscriptomic and metaproteomic comparison of floccular and granular sludges.

Tasmania – Vipul Agarwal (University of Tasmania)

Agarwal received the award for research into the synthesis of novel guar graft copolymer as a pitch fixative in the pulp and paper industry.

Victoria – Gregor Frederik Lichtfuss (Monash University)

Lichtfuss was honoured for research into natural killer cell defects in HIV infection, supplying the tools to support the development of better HIV therapy.

Western Australia – Stephan Karl (University of WA)

Karl was recognised for research into high sensitivity detection of malaria transmitting cells using high field gradient magnetic fractionation.

Applications are now open and close Monday September 12. See the AusBiotech website for details: ausbiotech.org