

Media Coverage

Company: AusBiotech
Publication: Web In Daily
Date: 31 August 2011
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WEDNESDAY, 31 AUGUST 2011

Brightest scientific awards

INDAILY STAFF

STUDENT researchers hunting for new medicines to treat and prevent illness will be recognised next month at the AusBiotech2011 Conference in Adelaide.

The AusBiotech-GSK Student Excellence Awards are the country's leading competition for life science, biotechnology and bio-engineering students.

Last year's national winner was University of Adelaide student Natasha Rogers for her research into organ cell protection following kidney transplantation surgery, by using an extract of the spice turmeric.

Her research demonstrated the ability of curcumin to protect kidney cells from organ damage from blood flow during surgery, called ischaemia-reperfusion injury (IRI).

Rogers has gone on to receive a fellowship from the National Medical Health and Research Council of Australia and is studying alongside leading transplant researchers in two new laboratories in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

"I am broadening my skill base in two new laboratories, in transplantation immunology and vascular biology, and hope to bring these techniques and collaborations back with me to Australia," she said in a statement.

Applications are now open for the 2011 awards. The deadline for submissions is September 12.

Six state winners will compete for the national title at the AusBiotech2011 Conference in Adelaide from October 16-19. The ultimate winner will receive a \$7000 travel grant to present their research at an international conference. In addition, the national winner's principal supervisor will receive a \$2000 research grant.

For more information visit <http://www.ausbiotech.org/>