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Australian Institute of Radiography
Professional Accreditation and Education Board

Research Scholarship Guidelines 2011

Contact Information

Professional Accreditation & Education Board
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Introduction

To enhance the research base within Medical Radiation Science, the Australian Institute of Radiography (AIR) will award two research scholarships each year.

Each of the scholarships will be for a maximum of \$5,000. One scholarship will be designated for a research project in radiation therapy and the other for diagnostic radiography/medical imaging. The scholarships are designed to encourage researchers to develop projects which will directly benefit patients.

The emphasis of this scheme is on broadening the research base in the profession and to aid the development of research within the membership. The Professional Accreditation and Education Board (PAEB) of the AIR calls for applications from ordinary and provisional members involved in research or who are anticipating undertaking research in the near future. These AIR scholarships provide an opportunity for ordinary or provisional members to develop the skills and experience needed to compete successfully for funds from other sources, such as external funding bodies.

Application procedure

Completed applications must be forwarded to the PAEB.

The applications will be assessed and ranked in order of merit by the PAEB. This assessment and ranking will occur for radiation therapy and radiography. The PAEB will then recommend to the Board of Directors (BoD) of the AIR the successful proposal and applicant in each modality to be awarded the research scholarship. The Board of Directors will have access to all the applications.

It is the responsibility of the PAEB to ensure that projects recommended to the BoD for the award of a scholarship are of an appropriate standard and will contribute to the body of knowledge within the Medical Radiation Science profession. Thus, the PAEB may recommend to the BoD that an application is unsuitable for the award of a scholarship, even though this may be the only application.

Selection criteria

Applications will be assessed and ranked using the following criteria:

- eligibility of the applicant(s) – Principal Investigator must be an AIR ordinary or provisional member
- quality of the research proposal
- suitability of the project to enhance the research base of the AIR
- likelihood of the work leading to a publishable outcome and/or to follow-up grants

Credit will be given for a project proposal that is of direct benefit to the patient and those that are collaborative in nature.

Timescale

Each year the following will occur:

- July through September Research Scholarship will be advertised
- A closing date in October for applications
- In October the PAEB will assess and rank the applications and forward recommendation to the Board of Directors
- Recipients of scholarships for the coming year will be announced at the Annual Scientific Meeting of Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy (ASMMIRT) of the AIR.

Submission details

Applications are to be provided in the following formats:

1. Email an electronic copy of the application to the PAEB at paeb@air.asn.au **AND**
2. Mail a hard copy to PO Box 16234, Collins Street West V 8007, postmarked no later than the closing date for applications.

Use of research funds

Funds awarded under this grant can be used for any research costs with the exception of capital equipment and travel.

Ethics approval

Research that involves human subjects or materials of human origin must be carried out in accordance with the guidelines laid down in the NHMRC Code of Practice.

Research that involves animal experimentation must be carried out in accordance with the Animal Research Act (1985) and accompanying Code of Practice.

A certificate of compliance with appropriate guidelines must, where required, be received by the PAEB from the institutional Animal Care and Ethics Committee and/or Ethics in Human Research Committee involved before payment of any proposed grant can be made.

Applications for this research scholarship may be made before ethics approval has been granted but funds will not be released until the evidence is provided to the AIR that ethics approval is granted. Most hospitals, universities and health authorities have animal care and ethics committees and/or ethics in human research committees. Applicants are advised to discuss their proposal with the chairperson of the appropriate ethics committee before submission. Applicants are also advised to prepare and submit applications for ethics approval at the earliest possible opportunity as the process often takes some time.

Scholarship Outcome

The successful applicant in their bid for this research scholarship will publish their results in the AIR publication *The Radiographer* and present the research and results at an ASMMIRT.