INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS

2015 Young Investigator Award (YIA)

NB: Please read the instructions carefully as the application process includes the submission of a peer reviewed journal article authored by the applicant and a three minute audio recording describing the paper to a 'scientifically experienced' listener.

Call for Applications

Applications are now invited for the 2015 Young Investigator Award. This Award is aimed at recognising and promoting the outstanding research performed by young investigators in the area of women's and children's health, as well as providing an opportunity for young researchers to present their research in a way that is readily understood by the general population.

The Award provides an ideal forum for promoting media interest in the excellent and varied research at the hosting institutions and in the high quality investigators performing this research.

The finalists will be asked to present their work at the Finals Event. For reaching the Final, each of the three finalists will receive $2,000. The winner of the Award will receive The Young Investigator Award of $5,000. Each Finalist is also eligible for the People’s Choice Award of $1,000 judged by the audience attending the Finals Event.

Summary of Key Dates

Monday 15 June 2015 Applications Open

Monday 13 July 2015 Applications Close

Week beginning 24 August 2015 Notification of semi-finalists

Tuesday 22 September 2015 (day) Research Showcase (Semi-final judging)

Tuesday 20 October 2015 (evening) Award Event (Final judging)
Eligibility

1. The applicant should be enrolled in a higher research degree (Masters by Research, Doctor of Philosophy etc), or be undertaking post-doctoral research after having been awarded their higher research degree not more than five years before the closing date for applications (and allowing for any career interruptions).

2. Applications are restricted to research into women’s and children’s health which has been carried out through the Women’s and Children’s Health Network (WCHN), Women’s and Children’s Health Research Institute (WCHRI), SA Pathology (WCH campus), South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute (SAHMRI), University of Adelaide, University of South Australia or Flinders University.

3. If based at an organisation other than the above (including interstate or overseas), the applicant must have a real relationship with one of the organisations (e.g. co-supervised or collaboration with that organisation).

4. The applicant must have a current academic affiliation or equivalent with one or more of the following organisations - WCHN, WCHRI, SA Pathology (WCH campus), SAHMRI, University of Adelaide, University of South Australia, or Flinders University.

5. The applicant has a publication as a first named author (or justify if not first named author) in a refereed journal (for 2014 or 2015) or under provisional acceptance at the time of submission of the YIA application.

Definition of Women’s and Children’s Health Research

Women’s health research includes women’s reproductive, gynaecological or infertility research focused on enabling a successful and healthy pregnancy.

Children’s health research includes research that enhances the health of the developing child from conception, through infancy, childhood and adolescence to 18 years of age.

The following categories of research are eligible:

- Clinical
- Epidemiological
- Laboratory
- Population health
- Social

Research that is only generally applied to women’s and children’s health and is mostly aimed at application for a much wider section of the community, may not be specific enough to meet the criteria of “women’s and children’s health”. Decisions on applicability reside with the Scientific Judging subcommittee and are final.
Application Requirements

1. Applicants to submit one hard copy of all documentation and one electronic copy which includes all sections listed below.

2. The hard copy of all documents to be sent to: Dr Andrea Averis - Chair, YIA Committee, c/- WCHN Research Secretariat, 2nd floor, Samuel Way Building, Women’s and Children’s Hospital, 72 King William Rd, North Adelaide SA 5006.

3. The electronic copies of CV, Lay Summary and Verification Form (Word files labelled YIA2015_Surname.doc); Refereed journal article (PDF file); and Audio recording (MP3 file) to be e-mailed to: andrea.averis@health.sa.gov.au

4. The application should consist of the following sections in order as outlined below:

   • A two page Curriculum Vitae (in Word format - Arial 12 pt with single line spacing) that includes name; contact details (phone/mobile/e-mail); current employment; university affiliation; if undertaking a Masters by Research or Doctoral degree or undertaking post-doctoral research, and any other relevant information (awards, publications, presentations etc).

   • A lay summary of the research (in Word format - Arial 12 pt with single line spacing) up to 250 words with name and title. This summary will be placed on the YIA web site for the public to view.

   • A signed Verification Form (in Word format - Arial 12 pt with single line spacing) of the applicant’s eligibility to apply for the Award - downloaded from the YIA website. **NB:** You must check with your supervisor and institution to ensure that there is no legal / ethical / other implications specific to your research for which you should be aware prior to lodging your application.

   • A refereed journal article (in PDF format) that at the time of submitting the YIA application has been submitted for publication and has been reviewed and approved for publication (with evidence of provisional acceptance) or has been published in 2014 or 2015. The journal article will be considered if an invitation to revise and resubmit is provided at the time of submission of the application. If not first named author on the article, applicants must provide a justification as to why it should be considered.

   • A three minute audio recording (in MP3 format) describing the journal article to a 'scientifically experienced' listener. This audio must not just repeat what is in the paper but rather expand on the content and guide the listener through the research paper, explaining diagrams/tables etc. It must be checked for clarity prior to submission. Tips of how to do an audio recording in MP3 format are available on the YIA website.
Judging Process

1. A judging panel consisting of scientists qualified to judge clinical, epidemiological, laboratory, population health or social research, with no direct link to the applicant's research and who are either currently supervising PhD candidates or engaged in ‘active’ research will assess the applications.

2. The refereed journal article and the audio recording will be externally scored by a panel of scientific judges and up to 10 applicants will go through to the ‘Research Showcase’ (Semi-final).

3. At the Research Showcase, the applicants will give a ‘five minute presentation’ pitched to a lay audience followed by two minutes of questions assessed by up to four scientific judges who are not necessarily specialists in the applicant's area of work.

4. The applicant can use up to three PowerPoint slides (no slide transitions and no additional electronic media - i.e. no sound and video files are permitted) as the focus is on the applicant’s capacity to effectively explain their research in language appropriate to an intelligent but non-specialist audience by consolidating their ideas and crystalising their research outcomes.

5. The presentation will be assessed both on the content and significance of the research and the presentation skills of the speaker.

6. To arrive at the three finalists, the applicants' scores for their presentation will be added to the scores of their journal article and audio recording. Each of the three finalists will receive a $2,000 cheque.

7. At the Final (Award Event) the three finalists will be required to give a 12 minute presentation (using appropriate audiovisual aids) in lay language to a general audience consisting of researchers, clinicians, other interested staff and invitees (e.g. business representatives, donors etc). There will be an additional five minutes for questions by the judges only.

8. The judges will be members of the media and a scientific moderator. Presentations will be assessed on the ability of the finalists to engage with the audience and communicate their research and its significance in an interesting and understandable way to non-scientists.

9. There will be a People’s Choice Award winner (judged by the audience present at the Final) who will receive a $1,000 cheque and an overall winner of the Young Investigator Award (judged by the media judges) who will receive a $5,000 cheque.

10. The finalists will be assessed on the following criteria:
    - The ability to make their research understandable and relevant to the general public and media.
    - The ability to generate enthusiasm and interest in their research by the judging panel, i.e. applicants should consider how to make their research attractive to the media.
    - Presentation skills, including engagement with audience, clarity of presentation, and general professional appearance.

Enquiries

For any enquiries, please contact the Chair of the YIA Committee - Dr Andrea Averis on phone 8161 7703 or e-mail andrea.averis@health.sa.gov.au