

# INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS

## Young Investigator Award (YIA) 2011

An initiative of the Women's and Children's Health Network (WCHN) and Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Adelaide, in partnership with the University of South Australia and Flinders University.

### Call for Applications

Applications are now invited for the Young Investigator Award 2011. This Award is aimed at recognising and promoting the outstanding research performed by young investigators, 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 Award Event on the evening of Thursday 27 October 2011 at the Adelaide Zoo. The winner of the Award will receive the Young Investigator Award of \$10,000, including a prize of \$1,000 (untied). Prizes of \$3,000 (including \$1,000 untied) will be awarded for the runners-up.

### Summary of Award Timeline

Thursday <b>9 June 2011</b>	Call for Applications
Monday <b>1 August 2011</b>	Applications Close
Week beginning <b>22 August 2011</b>	Notification of semi-finalists
Tuesday <b>20 September 2011</b> (day)	Semi-final judging
Thursday <b>27 Oct 2011</b> (evening)	Award event (final judging)

### Eligibility

- Applicants should be either studying for a higher research degree - Masters by Research, PhD, MD (other higher qualifications may also be acceptable), or have been awarded this degree no more than 36 months before the closing date for applications for the Award. The work presented for the Award need not necessarily have formed part of that degree.
- Applications are restricted to research into women's and children's health which has been carried out either through the Women's and Children's Health Network, the Women's and Children's Health Research Institute, University of Adelaide, University of South Australia, Flinders University, or SA Pathology (WCH campus).
- If based at an organisation other than the above, the applicants must have a real relationship with one of these organisations (e.g. co-supervised at that organisation).
- The applicant must be a candidate for a higher degree or have a current academic affiliation with one of the following Universities: University of Adelaide, University of South Australia or Flinders University.
- The winner of the Award is not eligible to apply again in subsequent years although runner-ups of the Award from previous years are welcome to apply.
- Please contact the Chair of the YIA Committee - Dr Andrea Averis (ph 8161 7703, or
- E-mail [andrea.averis@health.sa.gov.au](mailto:andrea.averis@health.sa.gov.au)) to clarify suitability.

### Definition of women's and children's health research

Research to enhance the health of the developing child from conception, through infancy, childhood and adolescence to 18 years of age. This includes women's reproductive, gynaecological or infertility research focused on enabling a successful and healthy pregnancy.

### Notes:

- Population health, social, epidemiological, laboratory or clinical research is included.
- 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 & children's health".
- Decisions on applicability reside with the Scientific Judging subcommittee and are final.

### **Applications and judging**

1. Applicants should submit **one hard copy** of all documentation and **one electronic copy** (Word document labelled YIA 2011\_Surname.doc which includes all sections). The application should consist of the following sections in order as below, in **Arial 12 pt** with **1.5 line spacing**:
  - A scientific title
  - A lay title
  - A scientific abstract summarising the research that they wish to be considered (not more than 350 words). This should take the form of an abstract submitted to the program organisers of a scientific conference.
  - A lay summary of the abstract (not more than 250 words) in plain English;
  - A separate statement setting out the significance of the research to the health of women/children (not more than 150 words);
  - A statement demonstrating that the applicant has carried out the research (not more than 100 words);
  - A brief CV (not more than 2 pages); and
  - Signed verification of the applicant's eligibility to apply for the Award must accompany the hard copy submission. The YIA Verification must be used and can be downloaded from the YIA website. NB: You must check with your supervisor and institution to ensure that there are **no legal/ethical/or other implications** specific to your research for which you should be aware prior to lodging your application.

Please submit one hard copy of all documentation to Dr Andrea Averis Chair, YIA Committee, c/- CYWHS Research Secretariat, 2nd floor, Samuel Way Building, Women's and Children's Hospital, 72 King William Rd, North Adelaide 5006, and an electronic copy (Word document labelled YIA 2011\_Surname.doc) to: [andrea.averis@health.sa.gov.au](mailto:andrea.averis@health.sa.gov.au) .

**Closing Date for Applications (paper and electronic versions): Monday 1 August 2011 at 4.00pm.** Late applications will not be accepted.

A judging panel consisting of scientists qualified to judge population health, social, epidemiological, laboratory or clinical 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. Eight applicants will be chosen by this panel to proceed to the second stage of judging. The eight semi-finalists will be notified during the week beginning **22 August 2011**.
3. Semi-finalists will be required to give an oral presentation of their research work to a general scientific audience, who are not necessarily specialists in the applicant's area of work. **Judging: Tuesday 20 September 2011 between 11am and 3pm.**

Presentations by the semi-finalists should be no longer than 12 minutes in length with an additional five minutes from the judges. Presentations will be assessed both on the quality of the science and the presentation skills of the speaker. Please note that judging of the semi-final presentations will be weighted towards the quality of the science.

### **Criteria for judging at Semi-finals**

The semi-finalists will be assessed on the following criteria:

- The **quality of science** based on the scientific content, methodology and validity of conclusions.
- The **presentation skills** based on the use of appropriate audiovisual aids, clarity of presentation, engagement with audience, understandability and general professional appearance.

Note: It is important that the presentations are simplified sufficiently to be understandable to scientific and medical researchers from a broad range of fields.

Three finalists will be chosen to move forward to the Final judging (Award Event). They will be notified on the day of the semi-final judging.

4. At the Final (Award Event) on **27 October 2011**, the three finalists will be required to give a 12 minute presentation in lay language to a general audience consisting of researchers, clinicians, other interested staff and invitees (e.g. donors, business representatives). There will be an additional five minutes for questions by judges only.

The judges will be composed of members of the media and a scientific moderator (scientist). Presentations will be assessed on the ability of the finalists to communicate their research in an interesting and understandable way to non-scientists. Judges will assume that all presentations are of high scientific quality.

**Criteria for judging at Final (Award Event)**

The finalists will be assessed on the following criteria:

- The ability to make their research understandable and relevant to the general public.
- 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.

The winner will be announced that night and prizes presented.

The winner will be required to submit a written report of the conference attended to the Award committee (via the Chair, YIA Committee).

Note that the Award committee members are happy to discuss the assessment criteria to ensure that all applicants clearly understand how the various stages will be assessed.

*For further information please contact – Dr Andrea Averis*

*Chair YIA Committee Tel: 8161 7703, email: [andrea.averis@health.sa.gov.au](mailto:andrea.averis@health.sa.gov.au)*