

BACKGROUND

SYDNEY VITAL is a member-based network of research institutes, universities, public and private health facilities covering the spectrum of health and medical research, clinical care and health services delivery within the Northern Sydney LHD. Our vision is to become a focal point for translational cancer research within the Northern Sydney LHD.

SYDNEY VITAL is building on the achievements of its predecessor, the Northern Translational Cancer Research Unit (NTCRU), continuing to support productive relationships and successful collaboration in order to maintain the pace and promise of outstanding translational cancer research across the Northern Sydney LHD.

SYDNEY VITAL members participate actively across a range of activities in the field of translational cancer research. **SYDNEY VITAL** supports our members by providing the enabling resources required to empower members to formulate and implement research-led advances in cancer diagnosis, treatment and care.

APPLICATION GUIDELINES

SYDNEY VITAL is pleased to offer Research Scholar Awards to the value of \$15,000 each for one year to students working in the area of translational cancer research. These awards are to be used to support the student's research and are to be spent at the discretion of the student and their supervisor(s). Suitable uses of this award would include consumables, purchase of a computer, statistical or other assistance, travel to a meeting at which the student is presenting their work etc.

Closing date for application: Friday, 17th October 2014.

Eligibility criteria

The applicant's principal supervisor must be listed as a member of **SYDNEY VITAL**, and **SYDNEY VITAL** must be this supervisor's primary affiliation (as opposed to another Translational Cancer Research Centre or Unit).

You can join or renew your membership online via:

<http://www.sydneyvital.org.au/membership/registration/>

In order to receive the award, students must be enrolled in a well described research program. It is envisaged that most recipients will be enrolled in a higher degree (PhD or Masters). If enrolled in a PhD preference will be given to 2nd and 3rd year PhD students. Students entering the 4th year of their PhD are eligible to apply, but will only be awarded funding for one semester. Previous recipients of a NTCRU Research Scholar Award may re-apply for funding in this round; however, in addition to the application you will

Funded by the Cancer Institute NSW through its Translational Cancer Research Centre program with contributing support from the University of Sydney's Cancer Research Fund.

need to submit a one-page report outlining the progress which has been achieved since your original award.

Applicants must complete all sections of the application form and supply necessary approvals and signatures.

Conditions of the Award

- Applications received after the closing date will not be considered.
- All eligibility criteria must be met.
- Awardees receiving a **SYDNEY VITAL** Scholar Award will be expected to actively participate in the **SYDNEY VITAL** Skills & Development Program throughout their **SYDNEY VITAL** Scholarship, including but not limited to:
 - i. Attending and actively participating in an annual full-day **SYDNEY VITAL** higher education Skills & Development workshop. These workshops will provide specific skills and knowledge related to translational research and research communication.
 - ii. Presenting at an approved Postgraduate Research Seminar at least once per year during their candidature and supporting fellow Research Scholar recipients by attending regular seminar sessions throughout the year.
 - iii. Contributing when requested to the **SYDNEY VITAL** newsletter or website with articles, and attending **SYDNEY VITAL** events where possible.
 - iv. Submitting an Annual Progress Report to **SYDNEY VITAL** for each calendar year by January of the following year.
- Successful applicants must maintain full-time enrolment at their university and satisfactorily complete an annual progress review.
- Successful applicants must acknowledge **SYDNEY VITAL**'s support in any documentation related to this scholarship in accordance with **SYDNEY VITAL** Funding Acknowledgement Guidelines and **SYDNEY VITAL** Guidelines for Logo Use, as well as promote **SYDNEY VITAL**'s translational cancer research activities amongst other students.
- Successful applicants will be required to sign a Letter of Acceptance and agree to these conditions in writing.

Assessment Criteria

In awarding **SYDNEY VITAL** Research Scholar Awards, the following criteria will be taken into account:

- **Scientific Quality (40%)** (*Including the clarity of the aims and objectives, the strengths and weaknesses of the experimental design and feasibility*).
- **Significance and Innovation (20%)**.

- **Track record relative to opportunity (30%)** (*Including evidence of an outstanding academic record*).
- **Consistency of the research with SYDNEY VITAL's primary aims of fostering translational cancer research which leads to improved survival and quality of life for cancer patients, either in the short or longer term, as well as adding value to clinical and laboratory based research activities (10%).**

Submission Guidelines

Applications must be submitted by e-mail as a pdf attachment to SydneyVital.admin@sydney.edu.au. Please use the following naming convention: **Last Name_ First Name_ SYDNEYVITAL_ Scholar14_ Round1**

SYDNEY VITAL Centre Manager, Suzie Nguyen, can be contacted on 9926 4726 or at SydneyVital.admin@sydney.edu.au to assist with any queries.

Applications received after Friday, 17th October 2014 will not be accepted.

Application Format

The application should be in Times New Roman 12-pt font with 2 cm margins. Please use the following headings for your application.

SECTION A: ADMINISTRATIVE SUMMARY

- A.1 Application Title (provide a short descriptive title of no more than 200 characters)
- A.2 Administering Institution (name of institution and department where this Scholar Award will be held)
- A.3 Scholar Details
 - i. Name
 - ii. Contact information
 - iii. Qualifications (including institutions and dates of award)
 - iv. State the year you commenced your PhD and your anticipated submission date. If date of commencement is a date in the near future, please state this date.
 - v. Source of currently held Scholarship(s) (including start and end dates). If you are awaiting notification of a scholarship, please list scholarships that you have applied for.

SECTION B: REQUESTED BUDGET

- B.1 Please provide a comprehensive breakdown of your budget including all laboratory supplies and any travel costs being sought (use table format)
- B.2 Budget detail and justification (ensure you justify all components of the above budget – no more than 4,500 characters)

SECTION C: TRACK RECORD (assessed relative to opportunity).

- C.1 Career Achievements and Awards (for example, patents, prizes, distinctions, honours, awards and other professional activities. Other relevant experience and commitments should also be mentioned. No more than 1,500 characters).
- C.2 Detail any aspects of your career or opportunities that are relevant to assessment that have not been detailed elsewhere in this application (for example, interruptions to career or any other circumstances that may have impacted on your career progression. No more than 1,500 characters).
- C.3 Outputs
 - i. Publications – please list all peer reviewed publications under the headings of original manuscripts, book chapters, letters to the editor, other (please specify)
 - ii. Patents

- iii. Funding – all funding attracted (names of all investigators, title of application, years funded, total amount of funding)
- iv. Conferences – list of all conference abstracts
- v. Presentations – list of all invited presentations

SECTION D: RESEARCH PROPOSAL

- D.1 Proposal Title (as per A.1)
- D.2 Summary of proposal: In no more than 750 characters (approx. 100 words) of plain language, summarise aims, significance and expected outcomes.
- D.3 Project Description including Background, Aims, Research Plan, Significance and Innovation and References (up to 5 pages, including figures and references). Any progress to date may also be included here where applicable.

SECTION E: RESEARCH ENVIRONMENT

Please include a description of the research facilities and academic activities within the department you will undertake / are already undertaking, your postgraduate studies. This should include the names and qualifications of your supervisors (up to one page).

SECTION F: SUPERVISOR REPORT

- F.1 Supervisor details: Provide the name, title, address and contact information of your supervisors and contact information for two referees.
- F.2 Supervisor report: The primary supervisor for each applicant is required to prepare a separate report which should include comment on the scholar's ability to undertake research, suitability for research training and how the research proposal fits in with the overall research direction of the department/institution. In addition, comment should be made about the facilities and environment provided by the department/institution and the experience of the supervisor in supervision of research students (up to 2 pages).

It is your responsibility to ensure that your supervisor submits their report directly to SYDNEY VITAL at SydneyVital.admin@sydney.edu.au by the due date of Friday, 17th October 2014.