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Australian and New Zealand Society of Respiratory Science Ltd
Leading Respiratory Science in Australasia through the 21st Century



Bird Healthcare Young Investigator Award

1. Purpose of the Award

The Young Investigator Award (YIA) is intended to encourage the conduct of research and its presentation at the Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) by junior members of the Society and those members who have had limited opportunity to participate in research during their career in respiratory science. There is no age restriction.

2. Eligibility Criteria

- 2.1 Financial Member of ANZSRS (Associate or Ordinary Membership).
- 2.2 No more than 2 previous oral or poster presentations as presenting author at ANZSRS Annual Scientific Meetings or other national/international scientific meetings.
- 2.3 Previous YIA Recipients are ineligible.

3. Conditions & Process

- 3.1 Members must nominate for YIA at time of abstract submission. All documentation associated with abstract submission, including Conflict of Interest Statement, must be completed.
- 3.2 A supporting letter from a Senior Scientist/Head of Department must accompany the nomination. This letter should state:
 - that the nominee has had significant input into key aspects of the research and preparation of the presentation, and
 - that the research forming the basis of the presentation has not appeared in print in a peer-reviewed journal, and
 - whether the work has been (or is to be) presented under a similar title at another Scientific Meeting and if so, the name of the meeting and the author order.
- 3.3 All nominated abstracts will be reviewed by the Abstract Review Committee (ARC) in accordance with the Abstract Review Guidelines as published on the Society website.



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- 3.4 The decision regarding appropriate standard for YIA session inclusion will be made solely using the abstract review guidelines. An abstract deemed suitable or unsuitable for acceptance at the ASM will be deemed suitable or unsuitable for YIA session inclusion.
- 3.5 A minimum of two YIA presentations are required for a YIA session to be scheduled. In the event that one single YIA application is accepted for oral presentation, the ASM oral judging panel will be advised as such.
- 3.6 When no award is made in any year, an alternative disposition of the funds may be considered after consultation between Bird Healthcare, the Society Board and the Scientific & Conference Committee.

4. Adjudication

- 4.1 The YIA judging panel will comprise three adjudicators selected from senior Society members experienced in research. It is important that the adjudicators have significant attendance at previous ASMs so that they are aware of past standards of presentation for the YIA award. For this reason, invited guest speakers should not be included in this panel. The panel should be selected so that there is minimal potential for real or perceived conflict of interest.
- 4.2 Judging for the YIA will be in accordance with the ANZSRS Guidelines for Assessment of Presentations at Annual Scientific Meetings and the best YIA presentation will be determined using these guidelines. These guidelines can be found on the Society website.
- 4.3 It is expected that the YIA presentations must demonstrate an acceptable level of scientific merit for the award to be made. This 'acceptable' level is difficult to quantify, however the judging panel should consider the fact that the presentation experience and research experience of YIA candidates is by definition limited. Furthermore, the spirit of the award in encouraging research participation should also be taken into account when deciding upon appropriate standards. The YIA should not be awarded should the presentation judged as best demonstrate clear and/or fundamental research design flaws, seriously misleading or incorrect interpretation of results or non-originality in research approach.
- 4.4 In the event that the judging panel considers that no presentation is of sufficient standard for the award to be made, this decision should be communicated to the Scientific & Conference Committee and to the Board as soon as practicable. It is advised that all YIA presenters be informed of this



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decision by a senior Society office-bearer prior to the official awards ceremony.

- 4.5 Where there is no specific YIA session but one YIA eligible presentation made, the YIA may still be awarded if the presentation is deemed to be of excellent quality. This decision will be made by the oral presentation judging panel and discussed with the SCC prior to being awarded. At a minimum, 'excellent quality' would require above average rankings for the majority of adjudication criteria.
- 4.6 In the event that no YIA session is scheduled due to there being only one applicant and the YIA is not awarded, the presentation by the nominated author will not be counted in determining eligibility for future YIA awards (i.e. this presentation will not be counted in the "2 previous presentations at ANZSRS Annual Scientific Meetings"). This condition is designed to ensure that young investigators are not disadvantaged by the lack of competitors for the YIA in any one year.

5. Winner of the YIA

- 5.1 YIA recipients are encouraged to use the award to attend an international meeting of their choice to further their professional development.
- 5.2 Recipients will be expected to provide a letter to the Society Publications Editor for the Society Webpage summarising their research presentation.
- 5.3 Recipients are required to give a presentation on the conference attended to their local branch meeting within 3 months of attending the meeting.
- 5.4 Recipients must acknowledge the sponsor of the Award where appropriate.