

# The Honourable Geoffrey Connard AM Early Career Researcher Travelling Award

## INTRODUCTION

The Victorian College of Pharmacy Foundation is pleased to announce the Honourable Geoffrey Connard AM Early Career Research (ECR) travelling award to be offered in 2021.

The Connard ECR travelling award is available to support current staff at the Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, Monash University, with up to 10 years' experience post-PhD to attend an international conference or participating in an international research placement. It should provide an additional international conference experience or research placement that would not normally be available during early career development.

Geoffrey Connard was a graduate of the Victorian College of Pharmacy in 1951 and practised as a community pharmacist at his pharmacy, W S Rankin, Melbourne. He entered the Victorian Parliament as the member for Higinbotham province in the Upper House in 1982 and served in the Parliament until 1996. During and after this time his abiding interest in health saw him assume a series of senior volunteer management roles in organisations as diverse as the Peter MacCallum Cancer Institute, Founding Chairman of the MacFarlane Burnet Centre for Medical Research, to being the Patron of the International Diabetics Institute.

As a pharmacist he was an active member of the Pharmaceutical Society and the Guild, in 1996, the Guild awarded him the Distinguished Service Medal. As a parliamentarian, his passion for, and interest in health saw him travel extensively. In 2008 Geoffrey Connard established a charitable account within the Equity Trustees Foundation in perpetuity to fund the Hon Geoffrey Connard AM Travelling Award, to help defray the cost of travel associated with the overseas study. He desired that the award awarded to students or researchers.

The Connard ECR travelling award is to be offered annually and will be rotated between the major research themes at the Faculty on an annual basis, that being:

- Centre for Medicine Use and Safety
- Drug Delivery, Disposition and Dynamics
- Drug Discovery Biology
- Medicinal Chemistry

The Victorian College of Pharmacy Foundation and the Faculty Associate Dean, Research (who will chair a sub-committee that will assess the Connard ECR travelling award) at their discretion may award more than one Connard ECR travelling award per year.

Theme leaders of the nominated theme each year are asked to provide details of the nominated candidate to the Faculty Associate Dean, Research prior to **Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2021** via email to [asuntha.munasinghe@monash.edu](mailto:asuntha.munasinghe@monash.edu).

For **2021** the award will be available to an Early Career Researcher within **Drug Delivery, Disposition and Dynamics (D4)** at the Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences.

## ELIGIBILITY

- The Connard ECR travelling award nominee will be a current staff member of the Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, Monash University, with up to 10 years of experience post-PhD
- Nominees can be Australian citizens, permanent residents, or be residing in Australia on an appropriate work visa
- Nominees from D4 are invited to apply in 2021.
- The award will not be offered retrospectively.

## AWARD

The Connard ECR travelling award will provide funding (up to a maximum of \$2000) to augment and support costs for international travel for the nominee's research including any of the following:

- travel expenses (it is expected that the scholar will travel economy class)
- accommodation
- conference registration (to a conference that the research theme regularly supports)
- research placement costs
- travel insurance
- any reasonable out of pocket living expenses

The nominee may source other funds to additionally support the travel opportunity, but these should be declared.

The award must be taken up within the calendar year of the award.

## SUGGESTED ASSESSMENT CRITERIA FOR THEME LEVEL SELECTION

Nominees may be considered for example on the basis of:

- a high impact journal publication
- the total number of publications
- exceptional research progress

Theme leaders may define their own selection criteria. The ECR travelling award should be viewed as a prestigious award to recognise outstanding performance.

## OBLIGATIONS OF WINNERS

The Connard ECR travelling award aims to provide international travelling opportunities for early career researchers in the pharmacy and pharmaceutical sciences research sector. The recipient must provide **one page written report** or **give a short presentation** to the Faculty Associate Dean, Research upon return, outlining insights and new knowledge gained from the travel experience with a view to sharing this information more broadly with colleagues and students within their research theme.

The report will be forwarded to the Victorian College of Pharmacy Foundation Board and made available for the trustees of the Honourable Geoffrey Connard AM, Early Career Research travelling award. The recipient is expected to acknowledge the trustees of the Hon Geoffrey Connard AM travelling award on publications resulting from supported research placements or on posters and presentations at conferences.

The recipient is expected to agree to uphold the highest professional standards when representing Monash University during the travel experience.