

The Honourable Geoffrey Connard AM Student Travelling Scholarship

INTRODUCTION

The Victorian College of Pharmacy Foundation is pleased to announce the Honourable Geoffrey Connard AM student travelling scholarship to be awarded in 2021.

The Connard travelling scholarship is available to support a current PhD, or Masters candidate enrolled at the Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, Monash University, during their higher degree by research (HDR) candidature to attend an international conference or to participate in an international research placement. It should provide an additional international conference experience or research placement that would not normally be available during a regular HDR candidature.

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, he was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal by the Guild. 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 Scholarship, to help defray the cost of travel associated with the overseas study. It was his desire that the scholarship be awarded to students or researchers.

The Connard travelling scholarship is to be awarded 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 Graduate Research committee at their discretion may award more than one Connard travelling scholarship per year.

Theme leaders of the nominated theme each year are asked to provide details of the nominated candidate to the Faculty Research Training committee prior to **Friday 2nd April 2021** via email to asuntha.munasinghe@monash.edu.

For **2021**, the scholarship will be available to a confirmed candidate enrolled within **Medicinal Chemistry**, Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences.

ELIGIBILITY

- The Connard Travelling Scholarship nominee will be a currently enrolled PhD or Masters candidate of the Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, Monash University
- Nominees can be Australian citizens, permanent residents, or be an international student residing in Australia
- Nominees from Medicinal Chemistry are invited to apply in 2021.

The scholarship will not be awarded retrospectively.

AWARD

The Connard Travelling Scholarship will provide funding (up to a maximum of \$2000) to augment and support costs for international travel for the candidate'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 candidate may source other funds to additionally support the travel opportunity, but these should be declared.

The scholarship 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 travelling scholarship should be viewed as a prestigious award to recognise outstanding performance.

OBLIGATIONS OF WINNERS

The Connard travelling scholarship aims to provide international travelling opportunities for a higher degree by research candidates in the pharmacy and pharmaceutical sciences research sector. The scholar must provide **one page written report** or **give a short presentation** to the Faculty Graduate Research Committee upon return, outlining insights and new knowledge gained from the travel experience with a view to sharing this information more broadly with fellow students and colleagues 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, student travelling scholarship. The scholar is expected to acknowledge the trustees of the Hon Geoffrey Connard AM travelling scholarship on publications resulting from supported research placements or on posters and presentations at conferences.

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