



# Society for **Reproductive Biology**

## **Society for Reproductive Biology Early Career Researcher Collaborative Research Travel Award**

### **Preamble**

The Society for Reproductive Biology has long recognised the importance to our Society of more junior members. The Society also recognises the importance of the early post-doctoral period in the training of reproductive biologists and acknowledges the importance of this period in attracting and retaining the best scientists to a career in reproductive biology. This award intends to encourage the retention of early career scientists in reproductive biology and loyalty to the Society. The proposed award will fund the travel of an Early Career Researcher to the institution of another Early Career Researcher for the purpose of planning joint research and/or the conduct of preliminary experiments or to allow the training of an Early Career Researcher by another (for example in a technique).

### **Aim**

To encourage collaboration between Early Career Researchers, who are members of the Society, in order to promote collaboration between Early Career Researchers and long-term collaborative activities between the newer members of the Society.

### **Definition of an Early Career Researcher**

For the purposes of this award, Early Career Researchers (both applicants) are defined as being within eight years of the award of their PhD or equivalent higher degree at the time of the application. Time away from research, e.g. for maternity leave, will be taken into consideration. The travelling ECR must have been a member of the Society for a minimum of six months prior to submitting an application. Preference will be given to an application in which both researchers are Society members.

### **Amount and scope of the Award**

Successful applicants will receive a grant-in-aid towards the costs of a single return flight between the two Early Career Researchers' institutions within Australia and New Zealand, as well as up to two weeks accommodation. The maximum value of the award is up to AUD \$1500. The award will fund the travel of only one of the two Early Career Researchers but will be made in the names of both researchers. Early Career Researchers will be eligible to receive only one Early Career Researcher Award as the travelling researcher.

The award will contribute to funding travel of one early career researcher to the institution of a second early career researcher to enable collaboration which will lead to outcomes such as, joint publication, joint funding or the planning of these activities or training in a new technique.

### **Application process:**

- Applications for an Early Career Researcher Award will be made in the form of a letter of no more than two A4 pages using 12 point Times font or similar.
- The application should outline the activities to be undertaken during the travel and reasons that travel is necessary for these activities. The application should also outline how the proposed travel will enhance the careers of both of the applicants. A brief budget should be included.
- Applications are to be made in the names of the travelling and receiving early career researchers. Which of the researchers is travelling must be clear in the

application and cannot be changed without prior approval of the Society. A change in which of the researchers is travelling will be approved only in exceptional circumstances.

- The application must be accompanied by letters of support from the mentors or Heads of Department in which both applicants are based. One of these support letters should indicate the willingness of the host institution to accommodate the travelling early career researcher for the purposes outlined in the application.
- The application must be accompanied by detailed curricula vitae of both applicants.
- Applications will be assessed by a committee appointed by the Council of the Society.
- The Early Career Researcher Collaborative Research Travel Award is a prestigious award and if in any year the Assessing Committee considers that there are no applications of sufficient merit, no award will be made.
- The number of Early Career Researcher Awards in any one year will be determined annually by the Council of the Society but it is anticipated that approximately two are likely to be available annually.
- Applications will be called for annually and advertised via the Society's website and other relevant media.
- **Applications must be emailed (as a single PDF) to the Secretary of the Society on the last working day of October annually.**
- Applications will be assessed and the applicants advised of the outcome within two months.
- **Travel should be completed within 12 months of lodging the application.**

#### **Reporting:**

Within 6 months of the completion of the travel, a report of no more than one A4 page must be submitted to the Secretary of the Society outlining the activities undertaken and the benefits accrued to the awardees. A short report suitable for publication in the Society's Newsletter (300-500 words with a photograph of the awardees) must also be sent to the Secretary of the Society at that time.

#### **The Assessing Committee**

The assessing committee for the Early Career Researcher Collaborative Research Travel Award will be Chaired by a senior member of the Society and will normally consist of two senior members of the Society and one early career researcher. The Chair of the Committee will be appointed by the Council for a term of three years and the Chair will appoint the other members of the Assessing Committee each year.

The Assessing Committee will take into account the quality of the early career researchers, the proposed activities and the anticipated outcomes from those activities as well as the comments of the mentors/Heads of Department of the two applicants.

#### **Footnote**

This award should be reviewed every three years in order to assess its effectiveness and consideration for expansion. The next review will be in 2019.