

TOW PRIZES 2011: CONDITIONS OF AWARD

1. The Tow Prizes are designed to foster the conduct of high quality research within the Randwick Hospital campus and to provide an appropriate forum in which such research can be presented to the hospital community.
2. The first division of the Tow Prize (*Clinical Award*) is for a contribution on a clinical research theme by any member of the hospital group. This division of the Prize is intended for:
 - (a) Those engaged in full-time clinical work (including Nursing and Allied Health) that also undertake part-time research on the relevant project. Eligibility is restricted to those who have completed less than 10 years in full-time (or equivalent part-time) employment **or** less than 10 years involved in research.
 - (b) Researchers who are not full-time clinicians but have carried out research that has a direct bearing on clinical practice. Eligibility in this group will be the same as that for the second division of the Tow Prize (see below).
3. The second division of the Tow Prize (*Open-Junior Award*) is open to any graduate (or undergraduate) who is engaged in medical/health/allied health research at the hospital group or University affiliated unit. This division of the Prize is intended for those undertaking full-time or part-time research degrees (Hons., Masters, or doctorates). For doctoral students eligibility is restricted to those who have completed no more than 4 sessions full-time (or 8 sessions part-time).
4. The third division of the Tow Prize (*Open-Senior Award*) is open to any graduate who has completed a Masters or doctorate within the last three years, or to any graduate who has completed more than 4 sessions full-time (or more than 8 sessions part-time). This division is intended for those who are approaching completion or who have recently finished their higher degree.
5. The fourth division of the Tow Prize (*Case Presentations Award*) is open to a nominated candidate from each of the Divisions of Medicine, Surgery, Anaesthetics and Psychiatry, as well as a candidate from the Sydney Children's Hospital, the Royal Hospital for Women and South Eastern Area Laboratory Service. The presenter should have had some direct involvement in the chosen case and have completed no more than 8 years full-time since the completion of their undergraduate degree, but not yet completed advanced training. The candidate must be nominated by their department in order to be eligible to present.
6. The fifth division of the Tow Prize is the *Poster Award*. Applicants for all other divisions of the Tow Prize are also eligible for the Poster Prize. There will be **two** awards given. Posters will be assessed on scientific content, visual impact and communication value.
7. The sixth division of the Tow Prize (*Nurse/Midwife/Allied Health Award*) is open to a registered nurse, midwife or allied health professional whose presentation in one of the other 5 divisions is judged to be of the highest standard. This is on the proviso that the nurse/midwife/allied health professional has not already won one of those awards, and that there is a minimum of 3 nurses/midwives/allied health professionals presenting at the Meeting.
8. The research or clinical material to be presented should have been collected by the applicant at a facility within, or directly associated with, the hospital group. Applicants must have been formally associated with the hospital group within the previous 12 months to be eligible for the Research Awards

9. While nomination for more than one division of the Award is possible, only one nomination will be accepted for presentation. Previous winners of the Award may be nominated again but are ineligible to win twice in the Clinical, twice in the Open Junior and twice in the Open Senior Divisions. Previous winners in the Case Presentations, Poster, and Nurse/Midwife Divisions may be nominated again provided that the material contained in the Abstract is unrelated to that in the successful nomination. Locum hospital staff or tenured university staff are not eligible. A person may only submit one application for the same division.
10. A person may nominate no more than two candidates in each division of the Tow Prize.
11. Eligibility for each division of the prizes will be based upon the candidate's status at the time that the relevant research work was conducted. The eligibility will be determined by the Tow Committee, whose decision is final.
12. The Convenor of the Tow Committee will formally call for nominations for the Prizes. The final submission date for the 2011 Awards is 7th September 2011. All nominations are to be submitted on the nomination form and are to be accompanied by the abstract describing the candidate's work. Additional material must be submitted strictly as outlined in the nomination form. Copies of the Conditions of Award, nomination forms and instructions for the preparation of Abstracts are available from the Convenors of the Tow Committee [Prof Rhoshel Lenroot (r.lenroot@unsw.edu.au, 9399-1089), or A/Prof Richard Lock (rlock@ccia.unsw.edu.au, 9385-2513)].
13. Nominations for the Research Awards will be formally considered by the Tow Committee, which will determine the eligibility of candidates and select the best abstracts for presentation during the Tow Research Meeting. When necessary, external reviewers will be obtained. In addition, all nominations of an acceptable standard will be eligible to present a scientific poster for display during the Meeting.
14. All abstracts selected for presentation will be oral communications of strictly ten minutes duration with five minutes for questions. Presentations for each of the prizes will be programmed separately.
15. Final assessment of nominations for the Research Awards will be carried out by panels of independent judges appointed by the Tow Committee. The Panels will include assessors from outside the hospital group and may include some members of the Tow Committee. The Panels may also seek recommendations on nominations from additional external referees. The final assessment for the research Awards is based on:
 - (i) Scientific merit;
 - (ii) Originality of the material presented;
 - (iii) The part played in the work by the presenter;
 - (iv) The mode of presentation;
 - (v) The presenter's response to questions.
16. The Poster Prizes are judged on the visual impact of the poster, its ability to communicate the scientific material as well as the scientific merit of the data presented. The majority of the design and preparation of the poster should be undertaken by the candidate, although expert advice and assistance (e.g. from a graphic artist) is permissible. Such assistance must be acknowledged on the poster. This Prize will usually be awarded to a nominee who did not receive any of the three Clinical or Open Awards.

17. In the Tow Prize for Case Presentations emphasis will be placed in judging on the general interest and interdisciplinary nature of the selected case, on the mode of presentation and the presenter's response to questions. The innovative use of multimedia in the presentations will also be judged.
18. The Committee reserves the right to make no award in a particular category.
19. Each winner of a Tow Prize (Clinical Award and the two Open Award categories) receives an inscribed medal, and a sum of money that at present is \$1,000. The value of the prize is to be shared if a joint nomination is successful. An additional grant of up to \$2,000 will be available to winners of the Clinical, Open-junior and Open-senior Divisions. The purpose of this grant is to assist in the cost of attending an international conference to present the work for which the Award was received as a first author, and must be taken up within 24 months of winning a Tow Award.
20. The winner of the Case Presentation Award will receive \$500.
21. The winner of each of the Poster Awards and the Nurse/Midwife Award will receive \$250.

Tow Committee: R.Lenroot (Co-convenor), R. Lock (Co-convenor), G Halliday (Treasurer), M. Costello, S. Gatt, G. Keogh, J Lawson, A. Lloyd, K. Neville, M. Ryan, S. Wong, and A. Zagami