The Picchi Brothers Foundation supports this award in the hope that it will inspire and encourage the next generation of leaders in cancer research.

The Victorian Comprehensive Cancer Centre (VCCC) is offering up to three $10,000 prizes to recognise Excellence in Cancer Research amongst the top PhD students of the VCCC alliance.

The prizes are intended to recognise, develop and support the top students of the VCCC, based on the productivity and impact of the work from their PhD. It is intended that the prizes will provide recipients with the opportunity to travel internationally for conferences and/or collaborative work, and support their development towards research independence.

The scheme is available only to PhD students who have confirmed candidature at the University of Melbourne at the application closing date, and are undertaking cancer-related research training within a member of the VCCC alliance. Students will normally have completed at least 24 months of candidature (FTE) at time of application. The candidate’s doctoral work must address one of the six pillars of cancer control including prevention, screening and early diagnosis, treatment, research, education and cancer information.

Up to three prizes will be awarded to recognise VCCC PhD students. There will be one prize each for basic science, clinical science and population health. All applications for the clinical science award must hold a clinical entry-to-practice degree.

What will be assessed?

When awarding the prizes, the selection committee will consider the strength of the entire application including the purpose and benefit of the overseas travel, the student’s track record (with emphasis on the PhD period), the contribution of the prize to the student’s career development and support from the student’s supervisor and an independent referee.

The committee will only consider applicants who:

- satisfy all of the eligibility requirements noted above, and
- submit a complete application by the closing date - 5pm (AEST) Friday 04 August, 2017
- retrospective applications will not be considered
Application

The complete application will consist of the following:

1. Completed application form
2. Letter of support from the supervisor which indicates the;
   - strength of the applicant
   - expected benefit (to the student) of travel/activity
3. Independent referee (not a secondary supervisor) report which comments on the;
   - strength of the applicant
   - contribution of the student’s work to the field of study

Both letters should be on a letterhead and signed

4. Curriculum Vitae
   - Should include the following sections:
     a. Education
     b. Employment
     c. Publications - ensure that publications directly arising from the PhD are included.
     d. Awards and Prizes

Regulations

- The travel or collaboration must be relevant and academically justifiable but not essential to the completion of the student's thesis (departments and faculties are responsible for the funding of research that is essential to the PhD or research doctorate).
- Investigating post-doctoral opportunities is acceptable as an element of the proposed travel but not as the main purpose of the trip. Evidence of arrangements made to investigate post-doctoral opportunities may be requested by the selection committee.
- Applicants must ensure that travel is in accordance with University of Melbourne travel policies.
- Within 4 weeks of return or within 12 months of award (for those using funds for collaborative research), successful students will need to submit a report to the VCCC. The report should include an overview of the outcomes and benefits of the overseas travel, or collaborative research and a detailed and descriptive summary on how the awarded funds were used.
- Previous recipients of this prize are ineligible to apply.

For queries please contact Mari Shibaoka, Project Officer
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