

# **Australasian Society of Clinical and Experimental Pharmacologists and Toxicologists**

## **ASCEPT Gillian Shenfield Early Educator Award**

This award, to be presented at the ASCEPT Annual Scientific Meeting is to recognise and reward initiatives in pharmacology education that lead to enhanced student outcomes. Awardees will be expected to publish their findings in an appropriate education journal. The award is aimed at those in the early stages of their academic career. The recipient will be invited to present at an Education session during the Annual Scientific Meeting.

**Rationale for the award:** Pharmacology is taught in a number of institutions around Australia/New Zealand and through a variety of degree programs. In all situations, those involved in the teaching of pharmacology are faced with challenging situations for which they must develop appropriate strategies – they must take action, monitor the outcomes, reflect and learn. As in research, innovative teaching should be reported using a suitable rigorous scientific methodology and shared with peers. ASCEPT wishes to reward early career educators for the development and reporting of education initiatives, thereby enhancing the quality of pharmacology education and encouraging an evidence-based approach to new teaching initiatives.

**Eligibility:** Applicants for the award must have been members of ASCEPT for at least 2 years prior to the Annual Scientific Meeting and at the level of Lecturer Level B (or equivalent) or below. Applicants can be involved in any aspect of teaching in pharmacology or toxicology, either basic or clinical, and should demonstrate that they have changed their teaching practices to improve learning outcomes amongst their students and gathered evidence to assess the impact of the change.

**Application Process:** ASCEPT strongly encourages Pharmacology Departments to identify and nominate suitable academic staff in the area of teaching and learning. We also welcome self-nominations. Applicants must forward a brief expression of interest to the ASCEPT Secretariat by 30<sup>th</sup> April to enable the Education Executive to provide guidance and support in the development of their full application. An integral component of this application is a description of teaching and learning initiatives in response to a challenging situation in pharmacology or toxicology education. As part of this process, applicants will complete an application package to be forwarded to the ASCEPT Secretariat by the September deadline for submitting an abstract to the Annual Scientific Meeting.

**ASCEPT Gillian Shenfield Early Educator Award Application Package:** This package should include:

**(A) Challenge description:** a 1000 word description of a challenging teaching situation upon which you have acted. The challenge can relate to any aspect of the teaching of pharmacology or toxicology, either basic or clinical (e.g. student engagement; teaching of a particular concept; practical class). The following aspects should be addressed:

Introduction: What was the nature of the challenge you faced?

Methods: What action did you take in response to this challenge and what was the rationale for this action?

Results: What were the outcomes of your response? Demonstrate how you assessed the impact of the action on student and/or staff perceptions and outcomes. Show how the action is linked to an understanding of the educational issue(s) being addressed.

Conclusion: What conclusions did you draw?

Reflection: What did you learn from that experience that would prove useful for others?

**(B) Presentation abstract:** a copy of an education abstract submitted to the ASCEPT Annual Scientific Meeting. Applicants MUST have ticked the appropriate box on the abstract submission page.

**(C) Statement:** A statement from the applicant regarding their current appointment and level as well as the length of time they have been teaching any aspect of pharmacology, toxicology or therapeutics. Any education-related publications can be included (*optional*).

**Award:** All applications will be judged by a panel nominated by the ASCEPT Education Forum. The successful applicant will be invited to present their challenge at an Education session during the ASCEPT Annual Scientific Meeting. Other applicants may be allocated a poster or oral presentation as decided by the Scientific Advisory Committee.