

PHD SCHOLARSHIP FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

The David Wilson PhD Scholarship in Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis

A collaborative initiative of Lung Foundation Australia, Thoracic Society of Australia & New Zealand and Australian Pulmonary Fibrosis Consortium

Background

Lung Foundation Australia (LFA) is a national charity that aims to reduce the impact of lung disease in Australia through Awareness, Support, Advocacy, Education and Research.

The Thoracic Society of Australia & New Zealand (TSANZ) is the national peak body that represents all professional groups with an interest in improving knowledge and understanding of lung disease across Australia and New Zealand.

The Australian Pulmonary Fibrosis Consortium (APFC) is a consortium of researchers in Interstitial Lung Disease (ILD) that has developed out of the work of the Australian IPF Registry¹.

Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis (IPF) is the most common form of Interstitial Lung Disease (ILD) and is a severe and progressive lung disorder with a median survival from point of diagnosis of 3-5 years. Little is known about the incidence or prevalence of the disease in Australia or disease progression.

Funding for this PhD Scholarship has been made available through the generous donation of Mr David Wilson and family with the objective to create a legacy of PhD Scholarships in IPF Research for the next 15 years.

Invitation

In 2016, there is ONE (1) PhD Scholarship opportunity with a set amount of funds of \$15,000 per year over a three year period (total funding: \$45,000).

Students wishing to undertake a PhD in IPF are invited to submit an application. This PhD Scholarship is ideally aimed at a researcher who is commencing a higher degree.

Students who wish to make an application for the David Wilson PhD Scholarship in IPF should discuss this funding opportunity with your research supervisor. Then arrange for you and your research supervisor to meet with Head of Research or equivalent position in your University or department. **Students must demonstrate that their University is willing to partner and co-fund the PhD Scholarship and is able to guarantee the funding availability upon commencement of the PhD Scholarship.** University support must be demonstrated by the completion of the "Partnership with Lung Foundation Australia" form by an authorised officer of the University.

¹ The Australian IPF Registry, an initiative of Lung Foundation Australia, is a research platform to facilitate clinical and epidemiological research in IPF. As a longitudinal cohort of over 630 participants and a linked bio-bank, the Registry aims to support research that will improve our understanding of this complex disease that may ultimately lead to improved health outcomes.

INVITATION TO MAKE AN APPLICATION

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The David Wilson PhD Scholarship in IPF offers a set amount of funds of \$15,000 per year over a three year period (total funding: \$45,000) to allocate to a PhD Scholarship in IPF Research and a student will be selected on the basis of the Application Form submitted. **Students must demonstrate that their University is willing to partner and co-fund the PhD Scholarship and is able to guarantee the funding availability upon commencement of the PhD Scholarship.**

Note: these funds are to be used for direct costs associated with the conduct of the research, being the student stipend. Any allowance funding or indirect and/or infrastructure costs do not form part of this grant and will not be covered by Lung Foundation Australia.

It is at the discretion of the University as to their funding contribution towards the co-funded PhD Scholarship and the type of Postgraduate Scholarship stipend and allowances, but they must guarantee to provide at least 50% of the student’s stipend. For example: a University may contribute approximately 50% for a Standard Stipend of \$28,100 including allowances. However, if the University identifies a Clinical Stipend of \$40,738 including allowances, then the University’s contribution would be a higher percentage of the total PhD Scholarship funding – equates to Lung Foundation \$15,000 (37%) and University \$25,738 (63%) contributions.

Figures quoted are from the NHMRC Postgraduate Scholarship Stipend and Allowance Rates for 2015

The IPF research supported may include any form of clinical, population, laboratory or genetics research. The research may apply to use the Australian IPF Registry cohort however this is not necessary.

The student recipient of the David Wilson PhD Scholarship in IPF will be provided with research mentorship by the Australian Pulmonary Fibrosis Consortium. The student recipient will be known as the David Wilson IPF PhD Scholar for the duration of the award.

Applications will undergo peer-review by the TSANZ’s Research Committee plus two members of the Australian Pulmonary Fibrosis Consortium (the Committee). If the Committee determines there are no applications of suitable merit the Lung Foundation retains the right to decline to award a scholarship. The judging criteria for submitted applications will be:

Criterion	Weight
University – Letter of Support (based on template)	Required
Research Supervisor and research environment	30%
Importance and Quality of Research Question	30%
Academic Track Record of Student	30%
New Student/PhD Scholarship	10%
Total	100%

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This award will officially be launched during the Awards Ceremony at the upcoming TSANZ ASM, which is being held at the Perth Convention & Execution Centre on Monday 4th April 2016. The recipient will be invited to be acknowledged at the TSANZ ASM 2017, Canberra.

Key Dates for 2016/2017 – Timelines

Call for Expression of Interest released	Monday, 14th March 2016
Official launch of the PhD Scholarship	Monday, 4th April 2016
Deadline for receipt of Application	Tuesday, 26th April 2016
Review Period / Correspondence	Wednesday, 27th April 2016 – Friday, 27th May 2016
Notification of Successful Student	Monday, 6th June 2016
Official Announcement – TSANZ 2017	Monday, 27th March 2017 – Canberra

The following documentation is available on the respective Research web pages of the Lung Foundation Australia website and the TSANZ website.

- 1) Application Form for the David Wilson PhD Scholarship in IPF (includes a checklist of the documents required to be provided with your application).
- 2) Partnership with Lung Foundation Australia for a PhD Scholarship in Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis Research form – to be filled out by your University.