

1. Purpose

The purpose of the GESA Young Investigator Awards (YIA) is to stimulate interest in research training by rewarding excellence amongst those involved in research training or in the early stages of their independent research activities.

The word “young” has an historic basis rather than a discriminatory one, since the age of the Investigator is irrelevant as opposed to the stage of their research training and experience. However, the term “YIA” will be retained because of the wide recognition and acceptance of this title within the Society.

2. Definitions

2.1 Awards

Awards will be made at AGW 2024 in recognition of the most meritorious research contribution to the scientific program by a Young Investigators in two separate classifications: Basic Science and Clinical Research.

2.2 Clinical Research or Basic Science

Clinical research is defined broadly as research predominantly involving human subjects. It may involve clinical or physiological studies of patients or volunteers, studies based on diagnostic or therapeutic procedures, clinical epidemiology, population studies, observational studies, clinical practice, treatment trials or evaluation of medical technology.

There may be a component of laboratory studies, but applications for predominantly laboratory-based work should be directed to the Basic Science Research Category.

3 Nature of Awards

There will be two (2) awards available, one (1) in Basic Science and one (1) in Clinical Research. Each Award consists of a certificate, trophy, and AU\$2,000 (incl GST). All eight (8) finalists will receive a certificate.

4 Eligibility

An Investigator will be eligible for the Awards if:

4.1 The Investigator is a **current financial GESA member**.

4.2 The Investigator is **not a previous recipient of this award**.

4.3 Not more than three (3) years have elapsed between the completion of the Investigator's higher degree as determined by the letter of acceptance by the Board of Examiners; or Fellowship, as determined by a letter from the appropriate College.

4.4 The Investigator:

- (a) has had a major role in the planning and performance of the research work,
- (b) has been responsible for the preparation of the abstract and
- (c) will present the work during AGW 2024.

4.5 **Only one (1) abstract** per applicant may be submitted for this award and the Investigator must nominate the classification as either Basic Science or Clinical Research. (Note: Investigators may be an author on more than one abstract, but only one abstract will be considered for the GESA YIA.)

- 4.6 At the time of submitting the abstract the data must not have been published, nor presented to any other Australian or International meeting.
- 4.7 The research falls within the guidelines endorsed by the NHMRC or the appropriate international body regarding Human and Animal Experiments.

5 Responsibility

The Investigator is responsible for:

- 5.1 Ensuring that the abstract is submitted through the GESA Abstract Portal and payment is received by GESA by the advertised closing date.
- 5.2 Paying the publication charge of **AUD\$100.00 inc. GST for GESA members**. Payment must be made by credit card, in Australian dollars, at the time of submission via the GESA AGW Abstract portal. Nonpayment will exclude abstract from consideration. Click here [to apply for membership or discover the benefits of membership](#).
- 5.3 Ensuring they are a current financial GESA member and can provide their GESA membership number when requested to during the submission process.
- 5.4 Indicating in which:
 - 5.4.1 Classification they wish the abstract to be assessed: Clinical or Basic Science. (The Research Committee reserves the right to move the abstract from one classification to the other if it considers the nominated classification inappropriate.), followed by selecting;
 - 5.4.2 Category: Hepatology, Routine GI Endoscopy, Advanced Endoscopic Techniques, Gastrointestinal Cancer, IBD, Luminal, Paediatrics, Nursing, Nutrition, Sustainability.
- 5.5 Ensuring the following if considering to submit a **case report**:
 - 5.5.1 When submitting a case report as an abstract, ensure the message or lesson it promotes is clearly stated in the first paragraph. Consider the following:
 - 5.5.2 Is this a rare and therefore worthy condition to describe, or a common condition but unusual presentation?
 - 5.5.3 Does it teach a lesson e.g., increased awareness of a condition, diagnostic strategy or cost effective/sustainable approach?
 - 5.5.4 Still unsure? Perhaps ask a mentor, senior colleague, or an AGW SPC member if the case study is unique and worthy of presenting.
- 5.5 Nominating only **One abstract** for consideration for the GESA YIA. If more than one abstract is nominated all abstracts will be deemed ineligible.
- 5.6 Providing information to confirm that the research work falls within the award guidelines and that it complies with NHMRC or applicable international body requirements regarding Human and Animal Experimentation.
- 5.7 Providing details of the supervisor who can confirm aspects of the Investigator's work.

6. Method of Selection

The following procedure will be observed in selecting the Young Investigators:

- 6.1 Nominated abstracts from eligible Investigators, will be circulated to members of the Grants and Research Committee.
- 6.2 Abstracts will be graded according to originality, presentation, scientific method and validity, relevance and general interest.

6.3 Four (4) finalists will be selected from each classification.

7. If Selected as a GESA YIA Finalist

Investigator is responsible for completing the author contribution statement by listing percentage contributions made by each abstract author to achieve the outcomes expected from the research. The investigator's supervisor will be asked to confirm the listed percentage author contributions are true and correct.

8. Presentation of Research in GESA AGW Session

Note: A scoring sheet is used by each Judge. A final tally sheet is used at the summing up the RGC adjudication post presentations.

- 8.1 In liaison with the Scientific Program Committee, selected abstracts will be scheduled for presentation. Selected finalists for the Awards must present in person at AGW 2024.
- 8.2 While the structure of the presentation may vary depending on the nature of the work being discussed, it is expected that each presentation will include the usual components of a talk such as background, aims, methods, results and conclusions. In addition, presenters should ensure that they provide;
 - (a) clear statement of the hypothesis being investigated.
 - (b) a brief description of the statistical methods employed; and
 - (c) a statement that appropriate ethical clearances have been obtained.
- 8.4 Presenters should adhere to the prescribed time for their presentation. Marks will be deducted for presentations going significantly over time.
- 8.5 Supervisors of award applicants must not ask questions of any finalist in the same category during presentations at AGW 2024.
- 8.6 Members of the Research Committee attending the conference will observe and assess the presentation of selected abstracts.
- 8.7 If required, the Chair of the Research Committee may co-opt additional members from GESA to assist with assessment, having due respect for the area of expertise of the absent/available members of the Research and Grants Committee.
- 8.8 The final selection of the GESA Young Investigators will be made at a meeting of the RGC as soon as possible after the last Young Investigator presentation at GESA AGW and will be based on:
 - a. Quality of abstract
 - b. Scientific merit
 - c. Quality of presentation
 - d. Ability to defend work.

An appraisal of the maturity of the Young Investigator as a Clinical Research or Basic Science will be made.

The Research Committee may, on occasion, recommend that no Award be made because a contribution of sufficient merit has not been presented.

9. Presentation to Awards Winner

All YIA finalists must attend the AGW Gala event on Sunday 15 September 2024.

All finalists will be sent a certificate the after AGW 2024.

The winner of each classification will be announced at the AGW Gala event on Sunday 15 September 2024. There will be two (2) awards available, one (1) in Basic Science and (1) in Clinical Research.

Each Winner will receive:

1. A certificate
2. A trophy
3. AU\$2,000 incl GST.

YIA Award winner obligations

Recipients are required to provide:

- Reports to the Society prior to payment being made;
- A personalised letter of thanks to the sponsor, e.g. June Halliday;
- Summary of the research project (for which the award was granted) for publication on the GESA website

10. People's Choice Awards

Audience at the end of the eight (8) GESA YIA presentations session may vote (via app) for their chosen award.

Criteria: Best research presentation

Winners: 1 x Basic Science and 1 x Clinical Research

Prize: Each winner receives registration to the AGW for the following year

Awarded: At the end of the eight (8) GESA YIA presentations session once the voting has been tallied.

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