



RCPA QUALITY ASSURANCE PROGRAMS AWARDS

RCPA Quality Assurance Programs Pty Ltd (QAP) provides External Quality Assessment programs in all Pathology Disciplines for medical diagnostic laboratories.

As part of the commitment to ensuring and improving laboratory quality, the Directors of the QAP are offering two awards in 2010 for projects on any aspect of laboratory quality. The intention is to offer one Travelling Fellowship to a medical graduate and one Research Award to a science graduate, depending on the quality of the applications received. A special area of interest for the QAP is the Health Economic implications for improved laboratory quality.

MEDICAL OR SCIENTIFIC TRAVELLING FELLOWSHIP

The Travelling Fellowship is intended to support a final year trainee, newly-qualified pathologist or senior scientist on an overseas study tour to enhance skills in Quality Assurance. Applicants should submit full details of the proposed overseas study plan and how it focuses on laboratory quality issues. This should include a full resume, a proposed study tour plan, a letter of support from the current supervisor, letters of invitation to visit the overseas institutions, and an outline of future career plans.

Funding for the Travelling Fellowship is for a maximum of \$80,000 for a period up to 12 months. A detailed report on the study tour will be required by the Board of the QAP within 3 months of its completion

RESEARCH AWARD

The Research Award may be used to fund a research project on laboratory quality being undertaken by a person working in a Hospital, University Department or Research Institution. This project must be clearly defined and approved by the Head of the Organization prior to application. Projects that involve working with any of the QAP Programs would be favorably considered.

The award will be for a period of 12 months in the first instance. Funding is for a maximum of \$50,000 for 12 months. It would be possible that some of the support could be used as a higher degree stipend. Applications that request higher amounts should have a detailed justification for the variance, and any increase will be at the discretion of the QAP Directors. A further application for continued funding may be made after the initial 12 months, and would be subject to availability of funds and satisfactory progress.

Applications for the Research Award should contain a description of the research to be undertaken (not more than 3 pages), a resume of the applicant (including a certified copy of qualifications) and a notional budget.

- Applicants for stipend support should provide documentary evidence of acceptance by a recognized tertiary institution for a higher degree. Applicants who have not yet been formally accepted to a tertiary institution may still apply, and funding would only be approved subject to final acceptance.
- Applicants for research support should provide a formal letter from the Head of their Organization stating that the project is acceptable to the organization, and that there will be adequate access to the necessary infrastructure and support to allow the project to proceed.

A report describing the progress of the research and accounting for the expenditure of funds will be required at 6 monthly intervals.

It is strongly recommended that the proposed application is discussed with the CEO before submission.

Decision Process

Applications should be e-mailed to anac@rcpa.edu.au by November 30, 2009. The applications will be considered by the QAP Board of Directors, and applicants may be invited to interview. Enquiries may be made to the CEO Dr Ian Gardner at iang@rcpa.edu.au.