Phytogen March 2015

Applications are now open for 2015 L'Oréal Australia & New Zealand For Women in Science Fellowships

03 March 2015

Awards, *Women in science*

Attention women early career researchers and their mentors:

Fellowship opportunity for those who are up to 5 years post PhD – please consider

Applications are now open for 2015 L'Oréal Australia & New Zealand For Women in Science Fellowships We are delighted to let you know that in 2015, the L'Oréal Australia & New Zealand For Women in Science Fellowship program has expanded.

The Fellowships will still be awarded to outstanding early-career female scientists to help them consolidate their careers and rise to leadership positions in science, with the addition of a Fellowship specifically for New Zealand.

In 2015 there are four Fellowships:

- Three $25,000 L'Oréal Australia For Women in Science Fellowships
- The inaugural $25,000 L'Oréal New Zealand For Women in Science Fellowship

The Fellowships are available to female researchers who are within five years post-PhD and have shown excellence in their career to date.

In assessing the applications, the jury will be looking for women who exhibit leadership skills, independence in their achievements, and have an outstanding track record.

Funds from the Fellowship can be used to help finance the Fellow's scientific research, including the costs of equipment, consumables, travel and conferences. Previous Fellows have also used this support to hire a research assistant, or cover the cost of childcare.

This year's Fellows will join a cohort of 26 past Fellows who've gone on to contribute significantly to their fields of science, including:

Dr Kathryn (Kat) Holt from the University of Melbourne
Kat Holt is using genetics, maths and supercomputers to study the whole genome of deadly bacteria and work out how they spread. Kat is using her novel techniques to study typhoid epidemics in Kathmandu, a new form of E.coli, the spread of antibiotic-resistant bacteria in Melbourne hospitals, and how infections in childhood affect the likelihood of asthma.

Since being awarded a L'Oréal Fellowship in 2013 Kat has obtained NHMRC funding of more than $1 million. Her Career Development Fellowship application was the highest ranked (level 1) biomedical application received by the NHMRC in 2014.

Dr Tracy Ainsworth from James Cook University

Tracy Ainsworth is changing our understanding of the life of the tiny coral animals that built Australia's iconic Great Barrier Reef—now threatened by a warming ocean and by bleaching. She's researching how coral lives in symbiosis with both photosynthetic algae and bacterial communities, and how those relationships change under environmental stress, such as when water temperature rises.

Tracy was awarded a L'Oréal Australia For Women in Science Fellowship in 2011. A 2012 Queensland International Fellowship funded a trip to America for further research on coral-microbe symbiosis and to learn more about bioinformatics. Her research is currently supported by an Australian Research Council discovery grant and a research grants from the Great Barrier Reef Foundation.

Dr Deanna D'Alessandro from the University of Sydney

Deanna D'Alessandro invented ways of capturing and releasing carbon dioxide, hydrogen and other gases using molecular sponges. Her new, highly absorbent crystals could in future help capture carbon dioxide emissions from power stations and industry, or lead to a practical way of carrying enough hydrogen gas in a fuel tank to run a car. They may also have other applications, such as electrodes for sensors, and capacitors for electronic circuits.

Deanna was awarded a L'Oréal Australia For Women in Science Fellowship in 2010. In 2012 she received the Distinguished Lectureship Award from The Chemical Society of Japan, and in 2014 she was awarded the Royal Australian Chemical Institute's Rennie Medal for excellence in research in chemical science. Deanna is currently an Australian Research Council Queen Elizabeth II Fellow.

Applications are now open and close at midnight on Tuesday 7 April.

To be considered, simply submit your application online—it's the same form for Australia and NZ applicants: http://form.jotform.co/form/50531403750848

We encourage potential applicants to read the profiles of past recipients to get a sense of the qualities expected of entrants into this highly competitive Fellowship.

We also recommend you review the full Fellowship conditions and eligibility criteria as well as the FAQ to ensure that you are eligible.

Kind regards,

Samantha Hass
Head of Scientific & Regulatory Affairs
L'Oréal Australia and New Zealand