1. HGSA AGM TRAVEL AWARDS

Up to 4 travel awards covering the cost of Early Bird Registration will be made each year to attend the HGSA Annual Scientific meeting. These will be judged on the quality of accepted abstracts. The awards will be given as reimbursement of costs incurred by the applicant, not as a cash prize.

Application is necessary and can be made by submitting a completed application form (and accompanying documents as required). Applications will be accepted until 60 days prior to the meeting and awardees will be notified prior to the meeting.

Applications will be assessed in three categories:

1) Student awards – up to two awards open to all Victorian and Tasmanian HGSA financial student members who have submitted an abstract.

   Confirmation of enrolment in the course is required (for Honours/Masters students this can include the previous academic year).

2) Trainee awards – One award open to all Victorian and Tasmania HGSA financial members enrolled in a HGSA Training Program (biochemical genetics or newborn screening trainees; clinical and metabolic genetic fellow trainees; cytogenetics trainees; trainee and associate genetic counsellors; molecular genetics trainees) or a postdoctoral researcher (within 3 years of completing a PhD).

   Confirmation of enrolment/employment in the field of human genetics is required (can be an email from supervisor).

3) Non-metropolitan award – One award open to all Victorian and Tasmania HGSA financial members working in regional/rural Victoria and Tasmania (employed >20km from Melbourne CBD). If no suitable applications are received, the committee may withhold or reallocate this award.

   Confirmation of employment in the field of human genetics is required (can be an email from supervisor).

Abstract Judging guidelines:

Abstracts will be judged by members of the HGSA Vic/Tas Branch Committee using the following guidelines.

- Quality of research
- Clarity/flow
- Study design
- Contribution significance to human genetics

All awardees will be invited to present their winning talk/poster at the Vic/Tas HGSA AGM in late August.

2. HGSA AGM DENISE KIRBY STUDENT AWARDS

The Denise Kirby Student Awards were introduced in 2010 in memory of Dr Denise Kirby, in tribute to those Victorian and Tasmanian HGSA members who have dedicated their careers to the human genetics community in Australasia.

The Denise Kirby prizes comprise a $500 oral presentation award given to the top student presentation at the annual AGM given by a VIC/TAS member, and a $100 poster presentation award. These awards are judged by members of the HGSA Vic/Tas Branch committee.

- No application is necessary for the Denise Kirby Student Travel Award as all Vic/Tas Branch students with (or who have) submitted abstracts will be automatically eligible for this award.
- This award is available only to students enrolled in a research higher degree and who are financial members of HGSA.
- The name of the winner of the Denise Kirby Student Travel Award will be announced on the final day of the HGSA Annual Scientific meeting.

Eligibility

Previous award winners for each category are not eligible to apply.

All awardees will be invited to present their winning talk/poster at the Vic/Tas HGSA AGM in late August.

3. FLOWN THE COOP TRAVEL AWARD

The purpose of this retrospective award is to support the professional development of the Victorian/Tasmanian membership through attendance at a conference other than the AGM that is relevant to their discipline and human genetics.

This retrospective travel award is available to financial Victorian and Tasmanian HGSA members who have given a platform presentation at a national or international conference other than the HGSA AGM.

The successful applicant will make themselves available to re-present their talk at the HGSA Vic/Tas AGM.
GUIDELINES

• One travel award to the value of AUD $1000 is available to contribute towards out of pocket costs incurred by the successful applicant after attending a conference other than the HGSA ASM in the previous 12 months;
• The conference must be relevant to applicants’ discipline and human genetics, and can be a domestic or international in nature;
• The successful applicant will be reimbursed to a maximum of AU$1,000 upon the provision of original receipts for travel, registration and accommodation, preferably by direct bank transfer.

ELIGIBILITY

• The successful applicant must be a current financial member of the HGSA (student or full member) and must have been a financial member of the HGSA (student or full member) for at least the previous 12 months;
• This award is not available to HGSA members who are eligible for Continuing Medical Education reimbursement;
• Applicants who have previously received this award are not eligible to apply.

CRITERIA FOR ASSESSMENT

• The applicants’ abstract must have been accepted for an oral presentation (excluding 3 minute thesis presentations) and the applicant must have attended the conference and given the presentation;
• The relevance of the conference to the human genetics profession;
• The originality and quality of applicant’s presentation;
• The significance of applicant’s presentation to the human genetics profession;
• Applicants must disclose if they were the recipients of alternative funding, including other travel grants, awards or partial employer funding, to attend the conference, and if so, how much.

APPLICATIONS

Applications should include the following electronically as a pdf or word doc:
• An abstract that was accepted for an oral presentation at the conference;
• Details of the conference including a copy of the conference program or website;
• Evidence of attendance at the conference;
• A budget of expenditure including flights, accommodation and registration costs with original receipts;
• Details of alternative sources of funding and amounts received;
• A completed application form.

SUBMISSIONS

Applications open on 1 May 2015 and should be submitted by end of June 2015 by email to the HGSA Vic/Tas branch committee secretary.

TERMS

• The successful applicant will produce a one page written report of the conference within one month of receipt of the award to be uploaded to the Vic/Tas branch section of the HGSA website;
• The successful applicant will present talk at the HGSA Vic/Tas AGM;
• Applications will be assessed by the HGSA Vic/Tas branch committee;
• If a member of the HGSA Vic/Tas branch committee submits an application, they will be excluded from the judging process and an HGSA Vic/Tas member will be invited to join the judging panel in their place.

Address correspondence to:
HGSA Vic/Tas Branch Secretary, contact details available from www.hgsa.org.au/about/victoria-and-tasmania-branch