



**Australian Government**  
**Australian Research Council**



**Georgina Sweet Award for Women  
in Quantitative Biomedical Science**

## **GEORGINA SWEET AWARD FOR WOMEN IN QUANTITATIVE BIOMEDICAL SCIENCE**

### **1. BACKGROUND**

2015 Georgina Sweet Australian Laureate Fellow, Professor Leann Tilley, received funding from the Australian Research Council to undertake the project 'Bio-metrology and modelling of a complex system: the malaria parasite' from 2016 – 2020 at the University of Melbourne. The fellowship program aims to develop a cross-disciplinary program to measure, model and manipulate complex cellular systems. Combining life and physical sciences with powerful imaging techniques, the project seeks to develop quantitative biochemical, biophysical and modelling techniques to probe complex systems in a way previously not possible. The Fellowship also includes a role for Professor Tilley as an ambassador for women in science.

### **2. AWARD OVERVIEW**

The Georgina Sweet Award for Women in Quantitative Biomedical Science was created by Professor Tilley as part of her Australian Laureate Fellowship program to support female scientists across Australia who demonstrate excellence in the area of Quantitative Biomedical Science. Successful candidates will have a compelling research vision and high academic quality and demonstrate strong mentoring support from their institutions. They will receive funding that can be used to support the direct costs of research-related activities, travel costs and out of pocket childcare expenses. Two awards of \$25,000 each will be awarded annually from 2016–2020, with the funds intended to assist the recipient's scientific research.

### **3. KEY DATES AND COMMITMENTS**

- 3.1 Applications open in early July and close at the end of July annually from 2016-2020.
- 3.2 Award winners will be notified in writing by the end of September each year.
- 3.3 Award winners will be required to be available to present a lecture and attend an award ceremony in October in the year of award.
- 3.4 During the 12 months following the award, winners will be expected to act as ambassadors for women in science in Australia, including engaging with the media and taking other opportunities to promote women in science.

#### **4. ELIGIBILITY**

- 4.1 Candidates should have completed their PhD within the last 15 years.
- 4.2 Candidates should be an Australian citizen or permanent resident.
- 4.3 Candidates should be employed by an Australian-based academic and/or research institution at the time of application.
- 4.4 Candidates should be based in Australia and employed by an Australian-based academic and/or research institution for the duration of award.
- 4.5 Candidates should be women undertaking quantitative biomedical sciences research.
- 4.6 Candidate salaries and institutional overheads are ineligible for funding.
- 4.7 Applications will be considered only if they are submitted in full by the advertised closing date.
- 4.8 Candidates may be granted an exemption from the eligibility criteria if a compelling case detailing the circumstances is provided in the 'special circumstances' sections within the application form. Exemptions from the eligibility criteria may be considered for:
  - i) Applicants who have the equivalent of fifteen year's post-PhD research experience, after taking into account a period of career interruption associated with maternity leave, part-time work due to family commitments
  - ii) other circumstances in which the applicant is able to make a compelling a case against at least one of the eligibility criteria
- 4.9 Previous recipients of the Georgina Sweet Award for Women in Quantitative Biomedical Science are ineligible to apply for further funding.

#### **5. SELECTION PROCESS**

- 5.1 Stage 1 - Candidates must provide their CV and complete the application form in order to be shortlisted by the assessor panel.
- 5.2 Stage 2 - Shortlisted candidates will be invited to provide 2 written references and a letter of support from their Head of Department (or equivalent).

The assessor panel will use this information to select the successful candidates. Final decisions are at the discretion of the assessor panel, which reserves the right not to award one or more of the awards if there are no suitable candidates. The panel will not provide feedback to unsuccessful applicants, and there is no right of appeal on the panel's decisions.

#### **6. SELECTION CRITERIA**

The successful candidates will be selected based on the following criteria:

- 6.1 Intellectual merit/academic records/accepted requisites for scholarly scientific study including ability to plan and conduct research; work as a team member or independently; and interpret and communicate research findings.
- 6.2 Scientific excellence and appropriateness of their research and a clearly articulated research vision.
- 6.3 References and letter of support.
- 6.4 Evidence of career development opportunities from the home institution.

The assessor panel is looking for mid-career leaders in their fields. Successful candidates will be researchers who have already had several high impact publications and received other recognition of their research expertise including grants, prizes and invitations to speak at conferences. If a candidate does not yet have an established publication record, they may consider deferring application for 1-2 years whilst their career is established.

## **7. CONDITIONS OF AWARD**

- 7.1 Awarded funding can be used, for example, to purchase equipment, reagents and consumables, publication fees or for travel expenses including conference attendance.
- 7.2 Awarded funding may be used for child care (subject to Fringe Benefits Tax provisions, if applicable) but not for any other personal expenses.
- 7.3 Candidate salaries (including loadings) and institutional overheads are ineligible for funding.
- 7.4 Awarded funding may be used to support a research assistant if one is required to ensure the candidate's research progresses.
- 7.5 Awarded funding will be paid in a single payment to the candidate's place of employment upon receipt of a valid tax invoice by the University of Melbourne.

Please indicate in the 'Special Circumstances' section of the online application form if you do not meet one or more of the Conditions of Award.

## **8. TRAVEL COSTS**

Successful applicants will be presented with the award at a ceremony in Melbourne. If applicable, the University of Melbourne will cover reasonable travel expenses to Melbourne. Travel expenses may include return economy flights; one night accommodation (at the allowable ATO rate); taxi transfers between accommodation, ceremony and airport. For Victorian residents, parking and petrol expenses between ceremony and residence will be provided.

## **9. REPORTING**

Successful recipients are required to submit a final report (max. 2 pages) one year after receiving the award. The final report should:

- 9.1 Provide a summary of the recipient's achievements.
- 9.2 Discuss how the award assisted their research and career.
- 9.3 Discuss how the award assisted advocacy for women in research
- 9.4 Provide a reconciliation of funds spent in the template supplied.