

## **Jacquot Awards Update July 6 2020**

As The 2021 Jacquot Awards applications are in the process of closing, it seems timely to update ANZSN Members on these awards. Prof Richard Kitching and Prof Carmel Hawley are the current Co-chairs of RACP Jacquot Award Committee, as they are the Co-Chairs of the ANZSN Research Advisory Committee (RAC).

The positive impact of the Jacquot Awards (with the current support of the Brown and Rowling families) on the discipline of nephrology and on patient care in Australia and New Zealand over the years has been profound and cannot be underestimated. So many improvements in the care of people with kidney disease have come from Jacquot Award funding, and so many outstanding academic nephrologists owe their careers to Jacquot Scholarships and Fellowships. Nephrology is fortunate to have these awards and thank the Brown and Rowling families for their ongoing support.

As most of you will know, there are three categories of Jacquot Award: Jacquot Research Entry Scholarships provide stipend support in undertaking a higher degree in nephrology, Jacquot Research Establishment Fellowships help RACP Fellows and trainees who have completed a higher degree to establish a career in medical research, and the Don and Lorraine Jacquot Career Development Fellowship helps established nephrologists further their research.

As the Don and Lorraine Jacquot Bequest is administered by the RACP Foundation, the application and assessment process follow the rules and guidelines specified by the RACP Foundation. The assessment committee consists of four ANZSN RAC members and three RACP appointed academic committee members, who may be nephrologists. ANZSN RAC members are invited yearly by the RACP Foundation to participate in the assessment process. Conflicts of interest are declared before each member reviews each (non-conflicted) application and submits scores to the RACP Foundation. The yearly budget (and therefore the number of awards that can be offered) is set by the RACP, largely on the basis of interest earned from the Don and Lorraine Bequest. The committee meets by teleconference with an RACP Foundation senior administrator.

There is considerable discussion of how the total sum available can be best allocated to the three categories of award. Specifically, the Don and Lorraine Jacquot Career Development Fellowship is only awarded to a high scoring applicant, so it may not be awarded for one or more years. In addition, the committee works hard to strike the right balance in the number Research Entry Scholarships and Research Establishment Fellowships awarded. What has been so impressive in the last two years is the increasing quality and number of applicants, especially in the Research Entry section (26 applicants in 2019, total 37 applicants for funding). An analysis by A/Prof Tim Hewitson of the applications and outcomes in the last 4 years has shown no evidence of gender bias or bias towards applications oriented towards a particular type of research (specifically towards “clinical” science or “basic” science).

The committee would like to commend not only the awardees, but also all those who apply for Jacquot Awards. The standard of applications is very high. As feedback, please try and make your applications clear, easy to read and consistent. It is important to pay attention to the budget – for example, it not possible to fund applications for Research Entry Scholarships that are not for stipends, or for Research Establishment or Career Development Fellowships where the budget is for work that would already have been performed prior to the award commencing. With the limited funding available for many excellent applications, it is very important that other sources of funding, especially for Research Establishment or Career Development Fellowships, be clearly specified and any

overlap excluded. Lastly, post award, please remember to acknowledge the RACP Jacquot Awards in any output arising from the award – especially in publications.

We as a nephrology society are so incredibly fortunate that the Jacquot and now the Brown and Rowling families provide this bequest to train our RACP member nephrologists in research. Professor Hawley and I have been privileged to help assess the many highly competitive applications that the RACP receives for Jacquot Awards and look forward to reviewing the applications for funding in 2021.