



NOMINATION GUIDELINES FOR THE JIAN ZHOU MEDAL

Purpose

These guidelines specify the processes and key dates for nominating a candidate for the Jian Zhou Medal, an honorific award of the of the Australian Academy of Health and Medical Sciences (AAHMS).

Criteria

The Jian Zhou Medal of the Australian Academy of Health and Medical Sciences is awarded annually to a rising star of Australian health and medical science. The Medal recognises an individual who is making a significant impact in translational medical science, primarily working in Australia.

Nominations are welcome from all fields associated with furthering biomedical and health research, whether clinical, public health or basic biomedical research, but must have a clear translational focus.

The recipient will be a postdoctoral researcher within 15 years of achieving their PhD, inclusive (or equivalent first research higher degree) at the time of nomination. Consideration will be given to individuals whose career has been interrupted, delayed or otherwise constrained through reasons including, but not limited to illness, child bearing, child caring or other caring responsibilities. Other disruptions resulting from professional development or training, such as clinical load, would not be considered under this definition.

The recipient **must** be normally resident in Australia at the time of nomination and the majority of their research **must** have been initiated or led from Australia (i.e. more than 50%).

Nominations for individuals undertaking clinical work alongside their research, women candidates and those representing the full diversity of health and medical sciences in Australia are encouraged.

The Medal will be awarded at the Academy's annual meeting each October and recipients will receive financial support for their travel costs to enable them to attend.

Provisions

1. Nomination for the Jian Zhou Medal

1.1. Entitlement to nominate

Fellows and non-Fellows may make a nomination, but individuals cannot self-nominate.

The nomination can be endorsed by any number of supporters. Support is provided by way of signatures attached to the nominator support letter.

1.2. Eligibility for nomination

Citizenship/Residency

Eligibility is restricted to Australian citizens and permanent residents, who are making or are anticipated to make a significant impact on translational medical research/science at the time of the nomination, and, in the opinion of the nominator, are eligible for an honorific award of the Academy when judged against the Jian Zhou Medal Criteria above. Candidates must be residing in Australia at the time of nomination.

Experience/Career Stage

The Award is open to persons within 15 years of completing their PhD (or equivalent first research higher degree, e.g. Ph.D/D.Phil., D.Psych., D.Sc., M.D.; candidates with alternative qualifications should contact the Secretariat for advice). The date of PhD is determined as the date of the letter advising the thesis was passed.

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Career Disruption

The Australian Academy of Health and Medical Sciences is committed to ensuring all eligible researchers can be considered for this award and will assess qualifying career disruptions alongside their opportunity to demonstrate scientific excellence.

A career disruption involves a prolonged interruption to a candidate's capacity to conduct full time equivalent (FTE) research since completing their PhD due to, but not limited to: illness, child bearing, child caring or other caring responsibilities (a disruption should be 90 days or longer, and may include long-term partial return to work formally agreed with the employer). Other disruptions resulting from professional development or training, such as clinical load, would not be considered under this definition.

Candidates will be considered 'relative to opportunity', taking into account any career disruptions, to assess their associated productivity commensurate with the opportunities available. Nominators should specify in the relevant section of the nomination form the nature of any such disruptions.

Exemption periods that can be requested include up to two years FTE for a dependent child, up to a maximum of four years (FTE) for two or more dependent children. An additional 6 months (pro rata) can be applied per eligible career disruption to take into account the time it takes to return to FTE after a period of extended leave.

Career disruption periods will be taken into account for all nominees, including for those who would otherwise be beyond the eligibility requirements relating to the completion of their PhD (or equivalent).

Referees

Four referee reports are required for each candidate. The nominator is responsible for providing four required referee reports at the time of nomination, at least of whom **one** should be international. All four reports must be received by the deadline.

Referees should address the criteria for award and comment the candidate's achievements against these criteria. They should justify why and how the candidate is an outstanding biomedical researcher and rising star, and how they have contributed to meritorious research in clinical science or a clinically related field.

1.3. Nomination Procedure

- Nominators are to email the Secretariat (awards@aahms.org) for the current nomination documents with the name of the intended candidate, their current email address, position and institution.
- The Nominator will receive the nomination documents, including the Nomination Form and Checklist, Candidate Consent & Certification Form, and an invitation to submit the completed documentation through a Dropbox File Request.
- Nominators should submit all nomination documentation via the provided Dropbox File Request.
- Files can be added to Dropbox at any time up until the advertised deadline for completed nominations, at which point they will close, and no further documents will be accepted.
- The nominator is responsible for confirming the candidate's eligibility and consent to nomination, and for securing the referee reports.
- The nominator shall be the primary contact regarding all aspects of the nomination.
- Nominees will remain eligible for one year. The Selection Committee, at its discretion, may decide to extend the eligibility of an especially competitive candidate for one year, in exceptional circumstances.

1.4. Selection Procedure

- Recipient(s) will be selected by the Jian Zhou Medal Selection Committee, for endorsement by Council, based assessment of all candidates against the criteria.

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- Only nominees for whom the Academy has received a complete application (outlined in the checklist below) will be considered by the Committee.
- The Committee will make a recommendation regarding Medal recipients and may, at its discretion, decide to extend the eligibility of an especially competitive candidate for one further year, in exceptional circumstances.
- The Committee's decision is final – appeals can be made only on the basis of process error and should be directed to the Academy's President in the first instance.
- A copy of the Committee's Terms of Reference is available from the AAHMS secretariat.

2. Checklist for a completed nomination

- **Nomination Form**, including:
 - **Personal Details** of the Candidate
 - **Eligibility of the candidate** has been confirmed as an Australian citizen or permanent resident, currently residing in Australia, and the date of PhD acceptance is within the 15-year time frame at the due date of nomination
 - **Contact Details** of the Candidate
 - **Short Citation**, in non-technical terms illustrating the candidates research and its broader implications
 - **Career disruption**, if applicable
 - **Nomination checklist**
- **Support letter from the nominator**, signed by any number of supporting signatures*
- **Candidate's Curriculum Vitae**
- **Candidate's Full Publications List**
- **Summary and DOI details with copies of the candidate's Most Significant Publications / Contributions**
- **Four Referee Reports**
- **A Nominator Certification Form** signed by the nominator*
- **A Candidate Consent & Certification Form** signed by the candidate* – *this may be submitted separately by the candidate*

* Electronic signatures and/or scanned documents are preferred

3. Key Dates and review process

Nominations open	Mid-October
Deadline for nominations	30 April
Selection committee meets to review nominations	Early June
Awardee contacted	Late July
Medal awarded (and next round opens)	October (at the AAHMS annual meeting)