



2023 DEBORAH LEHMANN RESEARCH AWARD IN PAEDIATRIC INFECTIOUS DISEASE RESEARCH

Infectious diseases are the number one killer of young children worldwide and a main reason for childhood hospitalisations. The mission of the Telethon Kids Institute's Wesfarmers Centre of Vaccines & Infectious Diseases (Wesfarmers Centre) is to reduce the burden of serious childhood infectious diseases by finding better prevention and treatment solutions.

The Wesfarmers Centre has established the Deborah Lehmann Research Award in Paediatric Infectious Disease Research (DLRA) to acknowledge the significant contribution that Emeritus Clin A/Prof Deborah Lehmann AO has made to paediatric infectious disease research, particularly towards reducing childhood morbidity and mortality rates in Australia and the Pacific Region and capacity building of many young researchers across the infectious diseases field.

AWARD DESCRIPTION

The DLRA is a funding mechanism to support the training and development of early- to mid-career researchers (EMCR) or higher degree by research (HDR) students who are nationals from the Pacific Region working in or outside their home countries, researchers from the First Nations of Australia and/or Aotearoa New Zealand, and Pasifika researchers from Aotearoa New Zealand.

One award of up to AU\$30,000 will be given each round. The successful applicant must expend the award within 3 years. Previous award recipients may reapply. Recipients will be eligible to apply for additional research and training support from the Wesfarmers Centre.

We strongly encourage applicants to discuss their application with a Wesfarmers Centre supervisor / collaborator to develop their project. Details of Wesfarmers Centre teams can be found on our website: <https://infectiousdiseases.telethonkids.org.au/our-research/>.

WHAT IT COVERS

The DLRA can be used to support direct research costs, training costs, salary support, or top-up scholarships for HDR students. Equipment costs may not contribute more than \$10,000 of the total budget.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Successful applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Be an EMCR (up to 10 FTE years post-PhD or equivalent, taking into consideration opportunity and career disruptions), or a HDR student.
- This award will support the training and development of an EMCR or HDR student who is:
 - a national from the Pacific Region working in or outside his/her home country (list of countries below) or
 - a researcher from the First Nations of Australia and/or Aotearoa New Zealand, or
 - a Pasifika researcher from Aotearoa New Zealand.
- Have a proposed research project in line with the objectives of the Wesfarmers Centre:
 - Prevention of infectious diseases that affect children and families.
 - Commitment to Indigenous leadership and training.
 - Pandemic preparedness for local and global emerging threats.
- Have a letter of support from a Wesfarmers Centre affiliated supervisor/collaborator*.

*Applicants who are unsure of an appropriate supervisor/collaborator, please contact the Wesfarmers Centre Manager, Sarah Brazier: WCVID@telethonkids.org.au.

LIST OF ELIGIBLE COUNTRIES IN THE PACIFIC REGION

Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Timor Leste, Fiji, Cook Islands, Nuie, Samoa and Indonesia

CONDITIONS OF THE AWARD

- Provision of a report outlining research progress within 12-months of receiving the award.
- For projects over 12-months in duration, provision of an annual report.
- At the conclusion of the project, provision of a final report.
- Presentation of applicant's research achievements to the Wesfarmers Centre (either virtually or in person) within 12-months of completing the award.
- Presentations and/or publications arising from this award must acknowledge the Wesfarmers Centre.

SELECTION PROCESS

Applications will be reviewed by an expert review committee.

Awards will be granted on a competitive basis to outstanding or highly promising candidates, where it is judged that the award will contribute significantly to building research capacity and collaboration opportunities with the Wesfarmers Centre.

Selection will be based on academic merit and research experience of the applicant, taking opportunity into consideration as well as the research proposal, research vision, and fit with the Wesfarmers Centre's objectives:

- Prevention of infectious diseases that affect children and families.
 - Commitment to Indigenous leadership and training.
 - Pandemic preparedness for local and global emerging threats.
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SELECTION CRITERIA AND APPLICATION PROCESS

Applicants must complete the application form.

Application form must be accompanied by the following:

- A letter of support from a supervisor/collaborator from within the Wesfarmers Centre stating they have discussed the project with you, believe it to be feasible, and support your application for this award.
 - A letter of support from the proposed supervisor (if they are not within the Wesfarmers Centre) stating they have discussed and developed the project with you, believe it to be feasible, and support your application for this award.
 - A copy of your curriculum vitae (max 2 pages).
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Submit applications to WCVID@telethonkids.org.au by 10 March 2023, 12:00pm AWST.

Note that applications received after this time will not be accepted.

More information on this award can be obtained from the Wesfarmers Centre Manager, Sarah Brazier: WCVID@telethonkids.org.au.