



# Prizes and Awards Policy

This document describes the prizes and other forms of recognition awarded by ABACBS. Changes to this document can be made at any time by the ABACBS Executive Committee.

## *Process*

The ABACBS Awards Sub-committee will handle:

- (i) The nomination process;
- (ii) Shortlist candidates;
- (iii) Provide shortlists and recommend awardees to the ABACBS Executive Committee.

The ABACBS Executive committee will have final approval, and may ask for new recommendations. Non-approval is only expected in exceptional circumstances and justification will be provided.

Until it is properly constituted, the ABACBS Executive will carry out the function of the Awards Sub-committee.

## *Eligibility*

Unless otherwise stated, candidates for prizes must be current members of ABACBS and must have been members for at least the past 12 months to be eligible for an award.

From 1 January 2019, current member will mean current financial member. Until then, current member will include Associate Member.

Members of the ABACBS Executive Committee and the ABACBS Awards Sub-committee are ineligible to apply for prizes while they hold positions on these committees. Students and staff based in the groups of committee members will be eligible to apply, but conflict of interest rules will apply.

Other eligibility requirements are detailed below.

## *Conflicts of interest*

Conflicts of interest are defined and dealt with following the processes and rules used by the NHMRC.

Members of relevant committees must declare any conflicts of interest and recuse themselves from assessing applications and abstain from approving recommendations for which they have a conflict.

#### *Gender equity and diversity*

The awards aim to recognize bioinformaticians and computational biologists across all career stages and sub-disciplines. In the case of ties, this may be a factor in selecting awardees.

The society aims for gender balance across awards. The gender balance of awardees will be monitored each year across categories and over time within categories and suitable steps put in place to achieve gender balance. No explicit quotas will be applied. However, awardees in any one year must include members of each gender.

#### *Career disruptions*

Time limits only apply where explicitly stated. Where they do apply, career disruptions should be counted as generously as is reasonable. A rough guideline to possible disruptions that should be counted:

- Having a child (for primary carers +1 year time; for secondary carers should be taken into account)
- Disruption due to health, inability to work, positions in unrelated industry (count time lost).
- Moving labs (should be taken into account in assessment, but not counted as time lost)

#### *Confidentiality*

Applications should be treated in the strictest confidence.

#### *Naming of awards*

Awards and prizes may be named for individuals or sponsors.

### **Awards and prizes**

#### *Honorary Senior Fellow*

This award recognises sustained outstanding contributions to the field of bioinformatics or computational biology based on contributions to the field, research, sustained service, leadership and particularly contributions to the bioinformatics community. Ordinarily this award would be made to research or other staff at academic level E or equivalent. The ABACBS Executive may nominate deserving individuals for this award each year. There is no limit to the number of awardees in a given year, but it is envisaged that the number would generally be less than or equal to 2). The award is to be made at the annual conference.

### **Future planned or possible awards**

The following award categories may be developed over the next years:

#### *Mid-career Award*

This award recognises outstanding contributions by mid-career researchers or others in the field of bioinformatics and computational biology based on leadership, research, and/or contributions to the field. Research staff at academic levels C or D or equivalent are eligible to apply. Candidates for the award may self-nominate or be nominated by others. Applications consist of a CV, an up to 1 page description of the candidate's contributions to the field, a list of the top 5 publications or software applications (if unpublished), and a 100 word lay summary.

*Outstanding Contribution by an Early Career Researcher Award*

This award recognises outstanding Early Career Researchers (ECRs) in the field of bioinformatics and computational biology. Research staff at academic levels A or B or equivalent are eligible to apply. Candidates for the award may self-nominate or be nominated by others. Applications consist of a description of the contribution(s) (up to 1 page), a list of any papers published or submitted, a letter of support from the candidate's supervisor, department head, or mentor, and a 100 word lay summary.

*Outstanding PhD thesis Award*

This award recognises outstanding PhD theses awarded during the past year. Up to 2 will be awarded. Candidates for the award may self-nominate or be nominated by their supervisor. Applications consist of a description of the thesis (up to 1 page), a list of any papers published, submitted or anticipated, a letter of support from the candidate's supervisor, department head, or mentor, and a 100 word lay summary.

*Professional Bioinformatician Award*

This award recognises outstanding contribution by staff in a bioinformatics support unit or core facility. Candidates for the award may self-nominate or be nominated by their supervisor. Applications consist of a description of the thesis (up to 1 page), a list of any papers published, submitted or anticipated, a letter of support from the candidate's supervisor, department head, or mentor, and a 100 word lay summary.

*OS Source Software Award*