

Retina Australia Emerging Scientist Award

Retina Australia is proud to launch the **Retina Australia Emerging Scientist Award** aimed at fostering the growth and development of early career researchers working in inherited retinal diseases research. This new award aims to recognise and support emerging scientists who have demonstrated excellence in research, leadership and advocacy, in the early stages of their careers. It is intended that this award will be recurring.

Award

- One award will be presented each year.
- The award winner will receive \$1,000 in prize money and a certificate.
- Award winner will also feature on Retina Australia website and social media channels.

Selection Criteria

To be eligible for a Retina Australia Emerging Scientist Award the applicant must:

- be directly involved in research into inherited retinal disease,
- exhibit leadership in their field of research,
- have experience in advocating for their own, or their peers, research,
- have completed less than 5 years post-PhD, or equivalent full-time in the case of significant career interruption, on the closing date in the year of application, and
- reside within Australia.

Ineligible Applicants

- Previous winners are not eligible to apply.
- Applications that do not provide all the required information will be ineligible.

Application process

Applicants are required to submit an application of no more than 2 pages (Arial or Aptos, 12 point font) that addresses the selection criteria and includes:

1. A summary of the **quality and impact of research** in any area of inherited retinal disease research.
2. A summary of significant publications, or research outcomes, and a description of the **key importance of these contributions to the field for each item listed along with details of other related accomplishments.**
3. Details of **leadership** in the field of research.
4. Demonstration of **communication, outreach and advocacy** activities.

Applicants are also required to provide:

1. A current CV (maximum 2 pages)
2. Evidence of PhD completion date (e.g. letter of degree completion from the university)
3. A one-page **letter of support** from a referee who can verify the applicant's research achievements and motivation in inherited retinal disease research.

Please **submit the application** together with your CV, evidence of qualification, and the letter of support to the company secretary Retina Australia by email to admin1@retinaaustralia.com.au by **5pm Monday 15 September 2025**.

Assessment Information:

- Applications will be assessed by a selection panel, appointed by the Board of Retina Australia, where at least one member of the panel has experience in the field of inherited retinal disease research.
- A director will be nominated to be on stand-by for the selection panel in the event of potential conflicts of interest between panel members and applicants.
- Selection panel members will be required to declare any conflict of interest with individuals or institutions and if conflicts are high, will be removed from assessment of that application.
- Career disruption will be defined according to NHMRC guidelines.
- A Referee may only support one nomination for an award each year.
- Applications will be assessed against selection criteria, relative to opportunity.
- The selection panel's recommendations will be provided to the Board who will make the final decision as to the recipient of the **Emerging Scientist Award**.

Award information

- Successful applications will be notified by the Chair of Retina Australia, personally and in writing.
- The award recipient will be invited to share details of their inherited retinal disease research, and achievements, in a Retina Australia webinar within 12 months of receiving the award.

Selection Criteria	Percentage
Quality and Significance of Research	50
Evidence of Leadership	25
Communication, Outreach and Advocacy	25