



RETINA australia

EMERGING SCIENTIST AWARD 2026

Retina Australia is proud to present the Emerging Scientist Award, recognising and supporting early-career researchers who have demonstrated excellence in research, leadership and advocacy in inherited retinal disease (IRD), in the early stages of their careers. This is a recurring, annual award.

The Award

- One award is presented each year
- The recipient receives \$1,000 in prize money and a certificate
- The recipient is featured on Retina Australia's website and social media channels
- The recipient is invited to share their research and achievements at a Retina Australia webinar within 12 months of receiving the Award

Who Can Apply

To be eligible, applicants must meet all of the following:

- Be directly involved in research into inherited retinal disease
- Exhibit leadership in their field of research
- Have experience advocating for their own, or their peers', research
- Have completed less than 5 years post-PhD (or equivalent full-time, accounting for significant career interruption as defined by NHMRC guidelines) as at the closing date
- Reside in Australia

Previous winners are not eligible to reapply. Incomplete applications will be ineligible.

How to Apply

Submit an application of no more than 2 pages (Arial or Aptos, 12pt) addressing:

1. A summary of the quality and impact of your research in any area of inherited retinal disease research
2. A summary of significant publications or research outcomes, and the key importance of each contribution to the field, plus any other related accomplishments

3. Details of your leadership in the field of research
4. Demonstration of your communication, outreach and advocacy activities

You must also provide:

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

Submit your application, CV, evidence of qualification and letter of support by email to info@retinaaustralia.com.au

Closing date: 5:00pm, Tuesday 8 September 2026

How Applications Are Assessed

- Applications are assessed by a selection panel appointed by the Board of Retina Australia, including at least one panel member with experience in inherited retinal disease research
- A Board director is on standby for the panel in case of a conflict of interest
- Panel members must declare any conflict of interest with individuals or institutions; where conflicts are high, that member is removed from assessing that application
- Career disruption is defined according to NHMRC guidelines
- A referee may only support one nomination per award, per year
- Applications are assessed against the selection criteria below, relative to opportunity
- The panel's recommendations go to the Board, who make the final decision on the recipient

Selection Criteria

- Quality and Significance of Research: 50%
- Evidence of Leadership: 25%
- Communication, Outreach and Advocacy: 25%

After the Award

- Successful applicants are notified personally and in writing by the Chair of Retina Australia
- The recipient is invited to present at a Retina Australia webinar within 12 months

Questions about the Award can be directed to the Retina Australia team, at info@retinaaustralia.com.au

[Retina Australia](#)