Call for applications

Travel Scholarships for attending one of the following conferences:

- ISAG conference in Edinburgh, UK, 26-30 July, 2010
- WCGALP conference in Leipzig, Germany, 1-6 August 2010

Research in animal breeding in Armidale is carried out by three organisations, namely Animal Genetics in the School of Environmental and Rural Science of the University of New England, the Animal Genetics and Breeding Unit, a joint institute of I&I NSW and UNE and in the C.S.I.R.O. Division of Livestock Industries at the F.D. McMaster Laboratory at Chiswick. These three institutions cooperated in organising the Sixth World Congress on Genetics Applied to Livestock Production in Armidale in 1998. Residual funds from this conference have been donated to the Armidale Animal Breeding Trust (AABT).

The AABT aims to support the pursuit of excellence in research and technology in animal breeding in Armidale, and to enhance Armidale’s reputation as a centre of excellence for animal breeding research.

Participation in international conferences forms an important part in the development of young scientists, and presentation of first class research papers plays an essential role in developing and maintaining a high scientific reputation. The AABT assists young researchers to attend such conferences through scholarships.

Beneficiaries of scholarships are members of the three institutions listed above, but exclude any members of the Organising Committee of the Sixth World Congress on Genetics Applied to Livestock Production.

The eligible conferences for 2010 are:

- International Society for Animal Genetics (ISAG) 32th International conference

- 9th World Congress on Genetics Applied to Livestock Production (WCGALP)
  Leipzig, Germany, 1-6 August 1 2010  http://www.wcgalp2010.org/

Applications for scholarships are now invited.
1. **Eligibility.**

Applicants should be full-time postgraduate students or junior researchers

− who are based at or associated with one of the three participating institutions (see above), and
− who have submitted a paper for presentation at one of the conferences and for which they are the senior author. The author should have one of the three Armidale institutions as affiliation.
− who have not received a AABT scholarship on a previous occasion. (Note also that recipients of the current award will not be eligible for AABT awards in the future).

2. **Scholarships.**

Scholarships are awarded to cover travel to and from the conference, accommodation and conference fees. This includes:

− The cost of the cheapest available economy return air/surface travel from Armidale to the conference site. For applicants who combine conference attendance with other (scientific) activities during the same trip, e.g. visits to other research organisations, a portion of the travel cost may be awarded.
− The conference registration cost
− Cost of ‘budget accommodation’ during the congress (about A$50/day)
− In special cases, a subsidy towards additional expenses.

3. **Applications.**

Applications should comprise:

− The work to be presented at the conference. Applications will be judged on both the scientific merit of the work and the quality of written presentation. For applicants for WCGALP, this should be the paper as submitted or to be submitted, in its final form; for applicants for ISAG, this should be the abstract to be submitted *plus* the manuscript of a paper describing the work involved which has been submitted for publication or is in its very final stages of preparation.
− A detailed itinerary and budget.

Applicants with other sources of funding available (e.g. students ‘operating budgets’) should specify amounts to be covered from these sources, and the minimum funding required from the AABT to make their trip feasible. Applicants are required to also apply for ISAG or WCGALP scholarships, which are available for young scientists. Applicants who have attempted to seek additional funding are more likely to be favorably considered by the committee.

Applicants with an extended trip should provide information about the remainder of their itinerary and travel cost and clearly specify the expenditure that is attributable to items that are eligible for AABT sponsorship. A report will be required upon return, detailing expenditure, and the merit of the conference to the young scientist.
4. **Selection Criteria.** The number of scholarships awarded will be limited. Scholarship will be awarded on the basis of

- Scientific excellence of the paper submitted.
- Appropriateness of the budget and funding requested.

Awards will be made with the aim of maximising benefits from the funds to the Armidale animal breeding community as a whole, while maintaining balance in benefits to the three individual institutions.

The selection committee will comprise the officers of the Trust together with other suitably qualified referees who will be recruited as needed.

5. **Closing date.** Deadline for receipt of applications is **Monday, 8 March 2010**, 9a.m. Late submissions will not be accepted. Applications should be forwarded to Prof. Julius van der Werf, Animal Science, University of New England, Armidale, NSW 2351, preferably by email in pdf format.

You will be notified by about early April 2010.

For further information contact Prof. Julius van der Werf

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