

Summary of the 2008 Queensland Protein Group Student Research Awards

The inaugural Queensland Protein Group Student Research Awards were held on the 16th June at the Institute for Molecular Bioscience, University of Queensland. The objective of this event was to provide a forum to promote the research of young Queensland protein scientists. Ten finalists were selected from a strong field of applicants to give 20 minute presentations, and at the end of the day three students were awarded \$500 travel scholarships on the basis of their presentations to attend the 2008 Australian Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Combio meeting in Canberra.

The students pulled out all the stops. Without exception all of the talks were of a high quality and covered a broad range of protein science from structural biology to cell biology, from protein phylogeny to protein-protein interactions plus much more. The judges Prof. Glenn King, Prof. Ross Smith and Dr. Justine Hill were left with a difficult task but in the end managed to select the three deserving winners. The GE travel scholarship was awarded to Ashley Waardenberg (Eskitis Institute, Griffith University) for his presentation describing the correlation of structural models of the key proteins of striated muscle with cellular location and gene expression. The Biorad travel scholarship was awarded to Elizabeth Skippington (Institute for Molecular Bioscience, UQ) for her work on using a novel and rapid method of protein sequence comparison to infer organism phylogeny and lateral gene transfer events. Finally the ASBMB sponsored scholarship was awarded to Janelle Harris (QUT and Queensland Institute for Medical Research) for her wide-ranging talk describing the function of the DNA repair protein Aprataxin.



The organisers would like to thank all of the speakers for their excellent presentations and all of those who attended for making it an enjoyable day. We would also like to thank the sponsors of the three travel prizes as well as Invitrogen, Pall Life Sciences and Beckman Coulter for providing the money for food and drinks to keep everyone going. We hope to see you again at the next awards symposium soon!

Brett Collins, Thomas Huber, Justine Hill and Jon Harris, 2008 QPG Prize organising committee.