



150 Years  
Science For A Better Life

## Media Release

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### **Call for submissions for global award program to champion scientific understanding of retinal disease**

- ***Global Ophthalmology Awards Program calls for submissions for 2013 program***
- ***Six winners to be awarded grants worth up to US\$50,000 each***
- ***Australian retinal specialist to chair international judging committee***

**January 15, 2013:** Bayer Healthcare Pharmaceuticals (Bayer) is calling for submissions from Australian ophthalmologists and researchers in the field of retinal ophthalmology to the Bayer Global Ophthalmology Awards Program (GOAP). Now in its second year, the awards aim to advance the scientific understanding and clinical management of retinal ophthalmic disorders.

A total of six grants, each worth up to US\$50,000, supporting research and training in retinal ophthalmology, will be awarded to successful applicants from across the world. The grants include three Fellowship Project Awards, intended to facilitate the development of research and clinical expertise in the field of retinal ophthalmology and three Research Awards, which aim to support a wide range of clinical and/or basic research projects in retinal ophthalmology.

Leading Australian medical retinal and macular specialist, and chair of the independent judging committee, Dr Jennifer Arnold, said the committee is once again looking forward to receiving submissions for pioneering project proposals in 2013.

“Whether it provides an opportunity to advance treatment options, improve patient outcomes or encourage ophthalmologists to further develop their skills in the management of retinal disorders, GOAP is an exciting opportunity that I am thrilled to be a part of again,” Dr Arnold said.

In 2012, six grants were awarded to winners from around the world including Dr Frank Verbraak from The Netherlands, who looked to examine the neurological, visual and neurocognitive performance in pediatric HIV-infected patients, and Dr Alejandra Alba Campomanes from the United States, who wanted to understand the role of postnatal serum insulin-like growth factors and retinopathy of prematurity in Latin American infants.

As part of the company’s commitment to eye health in an effort to further research and development in ophthalmology, Rene Klemm, Bayer Healthcare General Manager Australia, encourages Australians working in ophthalmology to apply for the GOAP.

“The efforts of Australian ophthalmologists in working to better understand, manage and ultimately treat eye disease, are internationally renowned.

“We challenge those working in the field to put their innovative work in the spotlight, apply, and show the world what they can do,” said Rene Klemm.

- ENDS -

### **The application process:**

To apply for a Fellowship Project Award, applicants must have completed ophthalmology training and wish to work on a specific research project as part of their training to become a retinal specialist.

To apply for a Research Award, applicants must have a medical degree or PhD and be affiliated with a facility that carries out research in ophthalmology, including medical schools, universities, hospitals, treatment centers or laboratories.

In the first instance, applicants must submit a Letter of Intent (LOI), outlining their proposed research or training goals for the award term (1 year). LOIs can be downloaded now from <http://www.bayer-ophthalmology-awards.com/html/f-proposal.html>

LOIs for the 2013 awards must be submitted on or before 30 April, 2013.

If an LOI is accepted by the committee, the applicant will be emailed a form by June 1, 2013 and asked to submit a full proposal. Winners will then be announced at a ceremony in November 2013.

### **The judging committee:**

The committee consists of the following internationally renowned professionals working across the world in the field of ophthalmology: Dr Jennifer Arnold, Prof. Francesco Bandello, Mr Philip Hykin, Dr Peter J. Kertes, Dr William Li, Prof. Pascale Massin, Prof. Quan Dong Nguyen, Prof. Masahito Ohji, Prof. Daniel Pauleikhoff, Dr Francisco Rodríguez and Prof. Tien Yin Wong.

### **About GOAP**

In 2012, Bayer Healthcare launched the Global Ophthalmology Awards Program (GOAP) with the aim of advancing the scientific understanding and clinical management of retinal ophthalmic disorders. Through grants supporting research and training in ophthalmology, the program seeks to provide opportunities for treatment improvement and to encourage ophthalmologists to further develop their skills in the management of retinal disorders.

To learn more about GOAP, please visit <http://www.bayer-ophthalmology-awards.com/index.php>

**About Bayer Australia Ltd [www.bayer.com.au](http://www.bayer.com.au)**

Bayer is celebrating 150 years of operation as an international, research-based company specialising in health care, nutrition and high-tech materials. It has operated in Australia since 1925 with significant investment in local research and manufacturing. In 2010, Bayer Australia, which employs about 850 people, generated revenues of \$686 million. Bayer is deeply committed to research and development and most of its 5,000 products and services are Bayer's own innovations. The company's focus on people, partnerships and innovation underpins all aspects of its operations, consistent with its mission, "Bayer: Science For A Better Life."

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*Media release issued on behalf of Bayer by SenateSHJ*

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