



# 2010 Sarcoma Research Award



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Rainbows For Kate

## INFORMATION

The [Australasian Sarcoma Study Group](#) (ASSG) was founded in 2007 to improve outcomes for sarcoma and related tumours in the Australian community by undertaking outstanding international basic, translational, clinical and supportive care research.

In January 2008, with funding from Cancer Australia the ASSG established itself as a national Cooperative Cancer Clinical Trial Group and commenced operation. From 2009, the University of Melbourne became the administering institution for the ASSG through [Cancer Australia's Support for Cancer Clinical Trials Program](#). Under this program, the Australian Government provides funding to build Australia's capacity to conduct cancer clinical trials. The ASSG is one of [thirteen Multisite Collaborative National Cancer Clinical Trials Groups](#) supported under this program. The Groups were established to help reduce the impact of cancer in the community through facilitating the coordination of and collaboration between all stakeholders, including people affected through cancer, health professionals, researchers, cancer organisations and governments.

In addition to Cancer Australia funding, the ASSG has received generous donations from philanthropy and competitive grants that collectively will help to reduce the personal and community impact of sarcoma. The [Rainbows for Kate](#) Foundation (RFK) is the sole sponsor for this inaugural Sarcoma Research Award.

Commencing in 2010, the Australasian Sarcoma Study Group (ASSG) is pleased to offer this highly prestigious and competitive 3-year top-up award for the purpose of undertaking a PhD or MD in basic, translational or clinical sarcoma research at a tertiary education institution. This prestigious Sarcoma Award of \$25,000 per annum is intended primarily as a top-up to a competitive scholarship (for example; NHMRC or APA) and as a contribution to research associated costs.

This Sarcoma Research Award will provide valuable financial support for promising researchers, excellent research training in sarcoma research and many additional professional development opportunities.

## **Value (AUS\$)**

The Sarcoma Research Award recipient will receive \$25,000 per annum for 3 years of full-time study. Applicants already holding a scholarship should refer to their respective conditions regarding receiving additional remuneration. All applicants should include a budget in their application, which may include the following:

- computer hardware and software expenses to be used for the study;
- conference and professional travel (up to \$15,000 total);
- top-up salary supplement (as permitted by respective scholarship conditions); and
- research consumables.

## **Eligibility and Award Selection**

The Sarcoma Research Award is available to highly motivated Australian citizens, New Zealand citizens and Australian permanent residents. Applicants must have obtained first class honours or equivalent results and must meet the minimum requirement for admission to probationary candidature for PhD or MD at a recognised tertiary education institution. Applicants must be commencing a PhD or MD in 2010 and must study full-time.

A selection panel comprising representatives of the ASSG and the Rainbows for Kate Foundation including a consumer will assess applications. The award will be offered on the basis of the applicant's:

- excellent academic and/or research track record;
- strong desire to be trained in the discipline of sarcoma research; and
- project proposal: how this relates to sarcoma and the interests of the ASSG.

## **Duration of Award**

The Sarcoma Research Award, which is offered initially for 12 months but subject to confirmation of candidature/satisfactory progress by the respective tertiary education institution will be renewed to a maximum period equivalent to 3 full-time years from initial enrolment for the post-graduate degree. Consideration may be given to applications for an extension of the award for a maximum period of six months. The Sarcoma Research Award recipient will be entitled to the leave conditions of their respective academic institution.

## **Commencement**

The Sarcoma Research Award recipient should commence study between 1 January and 31 March 2010. In exceptional circumstances, which require the written support of the project supervisor and endorsement from the ASSG Scholarship Selection Panel, a later commencement date, up to 31 July 2010, may be possible. Awards cannot be deferred beyond 31 July 2010.

## **Expectations**

The Sarcoma Research Award recipient and their supervisor would become members of the ASSG and ideally, would utilise the resources of the Group.

The ASSG and the Rainbows for Kate Foundation will be acknowledged/cited in any publication.

An annual written report is to be submitted to the ASSG and the Rainbows for Kate Foundation on the progress of the research covering the previous calendar year to 31 January. This report will form the basis of an annual review with continued receipt of the award subject to satisfactory academic performance.

The ASSG and the Rainbows for Kate Foundation will be notified in writing within 30 days of any leave or delay in research progress.

It is recommended that the recipient undertake no more than six hours of paid employment per week.

The recipient is expected to live in or close to the city where their institution is located so that they can undertake their research and liaise with supervisors within their designated research institution, as well as access the university and ASSG resources.

### **Application Procedure**

Applicants should submit their documents to the ASSG Secretariat. To ensure that all applications are completed entirely and correctly, students are asked to follow the procedure outlined below. Please read all of the steps outlined below BEFORE you start.

1. **Discuss** your intended project with your potential supervisor. Applicants are encouraged to discuss their own project ideas with potential supervisors. Assistance relevant to sarcoma research can be provided through the ASSG Secretariat [sarcoma@petermac.org](mailto:sarcoma@petermac.org).
2. **Lodge** your application for Probationary PhD/MD Candidature to your tertiary education institution (Supervisors will help with completion of forms). Note that PhD and MD applications may take up to six weeks to be assessed.
3. **Complete** the 'ASSG Sarcoma Research Award Application Form' found on the [Australasian Sarcoma Study Group](http://www.australiansarcomagroup.org) website.
4. **Submit** the following:
  - A copy of your PhD or MD application and copies of the supporting documentation;
  - A copy of your PhD or MD scholarship application;
  - A copy of your relevant academic transcript; and
  - Your completed 'ASSG Sarcoma Research Scholarship Application Form' to:

Dr Sally Whyte  
Executive Officer  
Australasian Sarcoma Study Group  
Level 2 Research  
Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre  
St. Andrew's Place  
East Melbourne VIC 3002 Australia

### **Closing Date For Applications**

Applications close at 5pm **Monday 30 November 2009**.

Selection criteria include track record and project feasibility, innovation and excellence.

Information and the application form can be downloaded from the ASSG website [www.australiansarcomagroup.org](http://www.australiansarcomagroup.org) or through email inquiry to [sarcoma@petermac.org](mailto:sarcoma@petermac.org) or telephone to the ASSG Secretariat on +61 3 9656 3605.

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**Every effort is made to expedite the decision-making process and applicants will be notified of the result of their scholarship application as soon as possible.**

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