CSL Announces $25 million Centenary Fellowship Program

Melbourne, Australia – CSL is proud to announce the establishment of a new flagship $25 million fellowship program for early stage and translational research in Australia.

The announcement was made last night by CSL's Chief Executive Officer, Mr Paul Perreault, at the CSL Centenary Celebration Gala. Mr Perreault also announced that the highly respected molecular biologist, Professor Ashley Dunn, will Chair the Selection Committee.

The CSL Centenary Fellowships will be high-value awards available to outstanding Australian researchers seeking to consolidate their career and undertake medical research in an Australian academic institution.

Two five-year fellowships will be awarded each calendar year, for ten years. The total value of each award will be A$1.25 million, paid in annual instalments of A$250,000 to the employing institute.

"Research and development represents both the past and the future of CSL. Over the past century we have earned a reputation as a passionate yet responsible organisation driven to care for patients and keep our word. Today, our future has never looked brighter" said Mr Perreault.

"As well as formally paying tribute to CSL's origins by supporting Australia's scientific community we are committed to helping foster future research excellence".

"We believe Australia's medical research community is world-class and a rich source of potential discoveries to address the world's unmet medical needs. We are energised by the quality and growth of research in Australia and delighted to be able to support some of the best and biggest minds in biomedical research" said Dr Andrew Cuthbertson, CSL Chief Scientific Officer and Director of Research & Development.

"Biotherapeutics is a fast-growing field with huge potential and we hope that the recipients of these fellowships will one day help to broaden the pool of life-saving, life changing, medicines by helping us to bring more new products and technologies to market, particularly for patients with rare and serious diseases" said Dr Cuthbertson.

"Additionally, we hope some of the Australian researchers currently working around the globe will seize this opportunity to come home and perform their vital research here".

Applications for the first two CSL Centenary Fellowships (to commence 1 January 2017) will open on 1st June 2016.

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About the CSL Centenary Fellowships

The CSL Centenary Fellowships are competitively-selected grants offered to mid-career (minimum 4 years post-doctoral) medical researchers. Two individual fellowships are to be awarded each calendar year. The total value of each award is $AUD 1.25 million, which is paid in annual instalments of $AUD 250,000 to the fellow's employing university or medical research institute.

The fellowship provides for a full-time salary plus associated research costs. The breakdown is to be determined by the Fellow, in conjunction with the employing institution at the commencement of the Fellowship.

Research Focus

The fellowships are to be primarily awarded for early stage and translational research with a focus on rare and serious diseases, immunology, and inflammation. In any given year, at the call of applications, a specific research area may be indicated as a preference for that year's awards.

Eligibility Criteria

Candidates must be Australian citizens (or permanent residents) with minimum tertiary qualifications of PhD level and at least four years post-doctoral work experience. Candidates do not need to be currently living or working in Australia at the time of application, but if successful they must undertake their research at an Australia academic institution. Applications will be judged on the basis of merit and excellence in competition with other applications.

Assessment

Applications will be assessed on relevant skills and professional record, benefits the fellowship will provide to the individual, benefits the fellowship will provide to Australian biomedical research and alignment to the Fellowship's stated research priorities.

Selection Committee

The CSL Centenary Fellowships are overseen by a Selection Committee, comprising independent members (including the Chairman) and CSL representatives.

Selection Committee Independent Chair: - Professor Ashley Dunn, PhD FAA

Professor Ashley Dunn was elected as a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Science in 1996, served as Associate Director of the Ludwig Institute until 2004 and is currently an Honorary of the Department of Surgery at the University of Melbourne. Professor Dunn serves on a number of Boards within the biotechnology sector.

Further information is available at: www.csl.com.au