

Guidelines for the ASSCR Catalyst Prize

The ASSCR Catalyst Prize aims to recognise an outstanding existing or new research team from the Australasian stem cell research community who have made or expect to make a fundamental impact in research.

- Focused on impact and innovation in research and research adjacent fields within five years
- Self-nominated by a team representative who is a current ASSCR member
- Applying teams will be assessed based on the contributions and impact they have achieved, or are expected to achieve, over a five-year timeframe.



Research projects include, but are not limited to, the:

1. Development of new scientific tools or technologies to advance scientific research (e.g. mouse models, cell lines, imaging platforms etc)
2. Development of a novel therapeutic or advancement of an existing therapeutic application.

Eligibility Requirements:

- To be eligible, the team must include at least one PhD student or Early Career Researcher (ECR) (defined as less than 5 years post PhD according to ARC guidelines) at the time of project execution.
- The nominated team representative must be a current member of the Society and held membership for at least 12 months during the assessment period.
- The outcome must have occurred in the last five years or be expected to emerge within the next five years as part of an already funded project.
 - For the 2026 applications the eligible 5-year timeframe must sit between August 2021-2031
- Teams must consist of at least three and no more than ten members.

Ineligible Applicants

- Applications that do not provide all the required information will be ineligible.
- Current members of the ASSCR Committee cannot apply as the team representative but can be team members.

Award

- Up to one award will be presented every two years.
- The winning team will receive \$5,000 prize money and a certificate.
- The money should be used within 12 months of receiving the award to support the teams next endeavour or the work of nominated team members by agreement amongst the team.
- The winning team will be invited to give a scientific presentation and provided with one complementary free registration to be used at an upcoming ASSCR Annual Meeting.
- The nominating team member will be required to provide a short-written report to ASSCR on how the funds were expended by the team and a letter highlighting the impact of the award that can be highlighted on the ASSCR website and through social media
- The winning team must acknowledge the support of ASSCR in all presentations that discuss research funded by this award.
- Short-listed and successful teams will have their achievement featured on the ASSCR website and social channels.

Application process

- Self-nominated by a single team representative and ASSCR member
- Application must be no more than five A4 pages (Times, 12-point font)

- Submit application to the Chair of Conference and Awards (*ASSCRsubmissions@gmail.com*) by **31st July 2026**.

Application must include:

1. **Overview** – describe the background, context and approach behind the team’s achievement and/or vision
2. **Innovation** - describe the achieved or expected innovation of the project, including its novelty and scientific significance.
3. **Impact** - describe the achieved or potential impact and reach of the innovation, including how it advances stem cell science in Australasia and/or globally. Please indicate whether the impact has already occurred or is expected to occur within the five-year timeframe of the award.
4. **Team**
Provide:
 - A 2-3 sentence biography for each team member, including their role in the project.
 - A statement outlining existing and/or anticipated collaborations across team members.
 - A brief description of the diversity of the team, including gender, nationalities, scientific backgrounds and institutional/university affiliations.
 - A declaration of ASSCR membership status for the nominated team representative, and identification of any team members who are PhD students or ECRs.
(Note: only the team representative is required to be a current ASSCR member).
5. **Evidence of innovation and impact:**
 - Provide evidence supporting the innovation and impact of the project.
For example: grants, publications, patents, trial, policies, educational resources etc.
 - For each piece of evidence provide a brief statement describing how it demonstrates or support the projects innovation and impact.

Assessment information:

- Applications will be assessed by the ASSCR Reviewer Panel supported by the ASSCR Executive Committee
- Selection panel members will be required to declare any conflict of interest with individuals or institutions and if conflicts are high, will be removed from assessment of the application.
- Applications will be assessed against selection criteria, relative to opportunity and career disruption as per ARC guidelines.
- It is a policy of ASSCR that the principles of equity, diversity and inclusion are observed in both the composition of the selection committee and awardees.

Selection criteria:

<i>Criteria</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Scientific Rigor	20%
Innovation & Originality	30%
Impact & Contribution	30%
Team Capability & Collaboration	20%

Announcement of award: The Catalyst Prize recipients will be announced at the annual ASSCR meeting and/or the ASSCR AGM.