



FACULTY OF
SCIENCE

2016 David Syme Research Prize
Value: approx. \$7,500 and bronze medallion
Closing date: Friday 28 April 2017

BACKGROUND:

The prize was established following a donation from Mr David Syme in 1904 to the University of Melbourne. The annual prize rewards the best original research in **Biology, Physics, Chemistry or Geology** produced in Australia during the preceding two years. Preference will be given to original research of value in the industrial and commercial interests of Australia. The David Syme Research Prize was first awarded in 1906. See also: <http://www.unimelb.edu.au/unisec/utr/pdf/utr6017.pdf>

From 2017, the David Syme Research Prize will be awarded by nomination only.

a) Research period:

The research described in the nomination must have been produced in Australia during the past TWO years (1 January 2015 - 31 December 2016). However, the nomination may include research results or publications accepted up to the award closing date of 28 April 2017 if the information is considered vital to the nomination.

b) Eligibility:

Researchers associated with any Australian university and researchers without university connections are eligible for nomination, noting that the following **are not** eligible for nomination:

- Professors or researchers who will have attained the position of professor at the time the award is made;
- Researchers outside universities who will have attained a level of seniority comparable to a university professor at the time the award is made (LEVEL E);
- Researchers who have not spent the equivalent of at least 5 full years of the last 7 in Australia.

c) Nomination Process:

Senior members of the academic or research community such as co-authors or co-researchers, heads of department or deputy vice-chancellors (research) are invited to nominate eligible colleagues who they believe would make worthy recipients of the award. The award is made on the basis of the research quality within the discipline and its likely impact and value in the industrial and commercial interests of Australia.

- Joint research - If a nomination is being made for two or more people who are eligible in respect of research that is wholly their joint work, they will be judged as one candidate. If the prize is awarded for joint work, the nominees will each receive a medal and will equally share in the prize money.
- Early career researchers or researchers with interrupted careers who can display research excellence in the preceding two years may be nominated but will not receive special consideration because of a relatively short research career. They will be assessed on the strength of their research and publications during the two years relevant to the award.
- If two or more records of original research of equal merit are submitted and the examiners are unable to determine which of them constitutes the most important contribution to the relevant branch of Science, the prize may be shared.

Nomination

The nomination must comprise:

1. A letter of nomination, on relevant letterhead, from a senior member of the academic or research community. The letter of nomination must clearly frame the value of the case and describe why the nominated candidate would be a deserving winner of the David Syme Research Prize in Biology, Physics, Chemistry or Geology. *Note:* Letters of nomination are not simply letters of endorsement. The letter of nomination should attest to the information provided in items 2-9 below, particularly item 7- ie. a description of the contribution made by the nominee to the work presented, including research leadership. NB: the committee reserves the right to approach co-authors / researchers / nominators for evidence of the nominee's leadership role in the research;
2. The signed coversheet (page 4);
3. A plain English summary of the work (*please make the description comprehensible and accessible for the general public as this summary may be used for public release*) – **max 100 words**;
4. A statement describing the main purpose and trend of the research – **max 1500 words**;
5. A statement describing the scientific and commercial impact of the work **max 500 words** (*Reference to impact factors, citations, conference invitations, patents and consultancies should be made in this section. This may also include evidence, or a description of the likelihood, that the research could lead to an application of relevance to industry or commercialisation. Please note that the committee will pay particular attention to citations relevant to the submitted research*);
6. *Originality of the work:* a statement clearly describing the originality and importance of the work undertaken during the two-year award period, including 'breakthrough' aspects of the research that have occurred during this period - **max 500 words**;
7. *Contribution to the work:* the submitted research record may be in whole, or in part, the embodiment of work carried out in collaboration with others, whether or not the collaborators are nominees for the prize. The examiners require evidence of the nominated candidate's role in the totality of the research presented and in leading research ideas and analysis, as detailed:
 - a) a statement that clearly maps the nominee's role in the totality of the work presented (this is especially important if the research is in collaboration with established senior researchers who are not joint nominees for the award). The nominee's contribution to the totality of the research should be presented as a percentage and include a summary of the nominee's role in leading research ideas and analysis of results;
 - b) if more than one researcher is being nominated, please outline the reasons why a joint nomination is being submitted and include a statement that clearly maps the role of each nominee in the totality of the research presented, as above;
8. Published work completed during the last two years – **up to 3 published works only**. (*NB - please note the impact factor of journals*);
9. A summary CV of no more than 3 pages, emphasizing aspects relevant to the work during the last **ten years**. This will be used in the overall assessment of the application. (*Please see CV Guidelines, page 3.*)

The nomination document is available from the Faculty of Science website through the link [Open for Application](#), and searching under 'David Syme'.

Curriculum Vitae: Guidelines

Focusing on the **past ten years only (up to the closing date of 28 April 2017)**, the following headings should be included in the accompanying curriculum vitae - ***maximum 3 pages in 12 point font (excluding publications)***.

1. Full name;
2. Full details of education, present and past appointments;
3. Seminar/conference presentations (invited talks only);
4. Peer recognition of research - awards or prizes (include \$ amount where applicable);
5. Outreach activities e.g. public events, media;
6. Nationally competitive grants and other research income;
7. Details of published works organised in the following categories (***please do not list works submitted, under review or in preparation***):
 - Original refereed journal articles (***the date of acceptance should be provided for papers not yet published***); please include journal ranking within discipline (not impact factor) and citations;
 - Reviews;
 - Books, chapters and monographs;
 - Full published conference proceedings (do not include conference abstracts);
 - Patents;
 - Other publications, e.g. popular articles, periodicals, submissions to government reviews, policies;
8. Optional – a URL link may be provided for one manuscript suitable for publication that embodies unpublished results of work carried out during the award period provided that knowledge of the previous work is necessary to the correct evaluation of the research.



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COVER SHEET

Research		
Title of area of research (<i>max 20 words</i>)		
Category of application: Physics / Chemistry / Biology / Geology		
NOMINEE details (include details for each person if more than one researcher is being nominated)		
Title	Full name	M / F (<i>please circle</i>)
Has the nominee spent the equivalent of <u>five</u> full years out of the past <u>seven</u> in Australia YES / NO <i>(NB: if No, they are not eligible for nomination)</i>		
Organisation		Dept/Section
Position		
Address		PCode
Tel		Email
Qualifications (<i>please include additional lines if more than one person is being nominated</i>)		
Degree	Institution	Year confirmed
NOMINEE: I / we certify that all details given in this nomination are correct		
Title / Name / Position:		
Organisation:		
Signature/date: _____ / _____		
NOMINATOR:		
Title / Name / Position:		
Organisation		
Signature / Date: _____ / _____		
Nominations must be received as a pdf document by 5.00pm, Friday 28 APRIL 2017 to:		
Linda Richardson, E: science-awards@unimelb.edu.au T: +61 3 8344 5949		