



Colin Sullivan Research Award

About the Award

This is an award for the best research proposal submitted by an author within 5 years of starting their research or clinical career. Prize is a £1000 research grant.

The Colin Sullivan Research Award is named for Professor Colin Sullivan.

Professor Sullivan has made significant contributions internationally to the understanding and treatment of sleep apnoea. He was not only instrumental in developing the first adult and paediatric sleep laboratories in Australia, he also invented the nasal CPAP technology used to treat sleep apnoea.

Colin has an extensive background in basic animal and human experimental research and is recognised as the international leader in the management of sleep disordered breathing. He was promoted to a Personal Chair in 1991 and in 1994, was awarded the research medal of the Thoracic Society of Australia. Among major research achievements are a large series of studies unravelling the basic mechanisms of how breathing is altered in sleep. This work was instrumental in identifying arousal responses from sleep as a crucial element in survival following respiratory failure.

Beyond the identification of the significant influence of sleep on breathing, his major scientific achievements have included the characterisation of the pathophysiology of adult sleep apnea; the invention of nasal CPAP in 1980, now the 'gold standard' treatment of sleep apnoea; the development of non-invasive ventilation during sleep to manage respiratory failure; the recognition of the extent of upper airway obstruction in infantile apnoea; the development of human foetal monitoring technology, and the discovery of the mechanism of sleep-induced worsening of blood pressure in pre-eclampsia.

Who is it aimed at?

The award is not aimed at allowing individuals to move overseas or for employment. It is intended to support research within the UK. The award is open to individuals only working within a research or clinical institution. The applicant must be a BSS member. The maximum amount awarded for each scholarship is £1000. The award cannot be made to an individual more than once.

The successful applicant will provide a report at the completion of their research, and an article for the BSS newsletter and website. Supplemental support from other sources to meet the costs of research is allowed, if required. There is no age restriction, but the award is intended primarily for individuals who are not yet fully established in sleep research or clinical practice.



Successful applicants are encouraged to present any research resulting from the award at the bi-annual BSS meeting. Acknowledgement of support on any presentations or publications arising from the Colin Sullivan Research Award is required.

How to apply?

Applicants should submit the following to the BSS Secretariat for consideration by the selection committee:

1. Brief CV of applicant including name and contact details
Academic record
Appointments positions - present and past
Awards and honours
Previous grants
Brief summary of research - current and completed
Publications and presentations
2. Brief outline of proposed programme of study or research (max two A4 pages, single spaced, including references)
A budget with justification and description of how the funds will be used (include other sources of funding/support if applicable)
3. Letter of support from supervisor/proposed host, including: Statement of intent to fully supervise the applicant
Reality of anticipated outcome and timetable
Availability of resources
Evidence of recent research achievements within sponsoring/host department.

Applications will be judged on quality of proposed work (30%), track record and potential of applicant (30%), quality of sponsoring institution (20%), likelihood of enduring exchange and benefit to sleep research or sleep medicine (20%). Length of BSS membership may be taken into consideration.

Award Notification

The award will be announced and awarded at the BSS scientific meeting and recipients are expected to attend the meeting.