



Policy Statement

Neurosurgical Society of Australasia

ABN 50 283 605 657, ACN 167 861 805

Policy Name: Peter Leech Memorial Prize

Version Approval Date: 2022

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this Policy is to outline the approach of the Neurosurgical Society of Australasia (NSA) to the awarding of the Peter Leech Memorial Prize (**Prize**).
- 1.2 This Policy also contains background, and the procedures to support the Policy in its operation. The Research Committee has the authority to make modifications to this Policy.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 In 1977, the NSA resolved to establish the Peter Leech Memorial Prize as the premier research Prize for trainees in the Surgical Education and Training Program in Neurosurgery. It is named in honour of Dr Peter Leech who was a neurosurgical trainee at the time of his passing. The Prize is awarded each year at the Annual Scientific Meeting of the NSA.
- 2.2 Peter John Leech was born in Worcestershire, England, on 5 September 1944, the elder of two children of John and Edith Leech. The family immigrated to Western Australia in 1954 when Peter was 10.
- 2.3 Peter attended the John Curtin High School and during this time, was involved in the Scout movement and his Church. He graduated MBBS from the University of Western Australia in 1967 and was then a Resident Medical Officer at the Royal Perth Hospital.
- 2.4 In 1969, he moved to Scotland and subsequently trained in neurosurgery with Professor Bryan Jennett, obtaining the Edinburgh Fellowship. His research work began in Glasgow under Douglas Miller, collaborating with him on investigation into intracranial pressure and cerebral blood flow. For this work, Peter was awarded the degree of Master of Surgery of the University of Western Australia. In 1975, he worked in London, Ontario, with Professor Charles Drake and then he returned to Perth as a Senior Registrar in Neurosurgery at the Royal Perth Hospital. During this time, he obtained his FRACS in Neurosurgery.
- 2.5 His untimely death, from a cerebral glioma in October 1976, cut short a promising and distinguishing neurosurgical career. He left behind his wife, Sandy, and a son.

3.0 ELIGIBILITY

- 3.1 Application for the Prize is open to trainees registered in the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons Surgical Education and Training Program in Neurosurgery.
- 3.2 Each person can only win the Prize once. Prior Prize recipients are not eligible to apply.
- 3.3 The research presented may be of a clinical or scientific basis. It is expected the research presented will have been wholly or substantially undertaken by the applicant, although it is accepted that clinical research will necessarily involve surgical procedural work performed by neurosurgeons or by the applicant whilst under supervision.

- 3.4 Applicants for the Prize must submit an abstract for presentation at the NSA Annual Scientific Meeting in compliance with the advertised format and deadline.
- 3.5 The applicant, if selected as a finalist, must register as a delegate for and personally present at the Annual Scientific Meeting by the date communicated by the NSA.
- 3.6 The applicant must consent to the abstract being published in the NSA newsletter and other such NSA publications as determined by the NSA.

4.0 SELECTION PROCESS

- 4.1 Research Committee members are eligible to participate in the selection of the finalists for the Prize, subject to clause 4.2.
- 4.2 If a Research Committee member has had a direct involvement in the research on which the abstract is based or other significant conflict of interest, the member will be excluded from the vote for that applicant.
- 4.3 For the first round of voting, members must rank the applications taking into consideration the clarity and development of the scientific argument, current and probable future relevance to clinical neurosurgery and the strength of the science. The following **Preference Points** will be applied to each ranking:
 - a) 1st preference is worth 5 points
 - b) 2nd preference is worth 4 points
 - c) 3rd preference is worth 3 points
 - d) 4th preference is worth 2 points
 - e) 5th preference is worth 1 point
 - f) 6th preference and above is worth 0 points
- 4.4 The Preference Points for each applicant will be combined and averaged based on the number of members participating in the scoring of that applicant to determine the overall ranking of applicants.
- 4.5 The three applicants with the highest average Preference Points will be shortlisted as finalists. If two or more applicants are ranked equally which impacts on their selection as a finalist, the number of shortlisted finalists will be increased to include those applicants.
- 4.6 The decision of the finalists as determined by the Research Committee will be final, and the point scores will not be released.
- 4.7 The Research Committee will select a panel of 3 or more judges to consider the finalists who do not have a conflict of interest. This can include members of the Research Committee involved in the selection of the finalists.
- 4.8 Each finalist will be required to present during the NSA Annual Scientific Meeting. Each finalist presentation will be 7 minutes. The judges and members of the audience may ask questions of the applicant.
- 4.9 At the completion of the finalist presentations, each judge will rank the finalists considering:
 - a) clarity of presentation and development of the scientific argument
 - b) quality of the visual presentation
 - c) current or probable future relevance to clinical Neurosurgery
 - d) the strength of the science
 - e) length of the presentation adherence
 - f) demonstration of knowledge in answering questions

4.10 The following Preference Points will be applied to each ranking:

- a) 1st preference is worth 3 points
- b) 2nd preference is worth 2 points
- c) 3rd preference is worth 1 point
- d) 4th preference and above (when required) is worth 0 points

4.11 The Preference Points for each applicant from the three judges will be combined. The applicant with the highest combined Preference Points will be declared the winner of the Prize.

4.12 If after 4.11 two or more applicants are ranked equally to determine the winner, the score for those applicants only will be recalculated based on 1st Preference Points only and the applicant with the highest will be declared the winner of the Prize.

4.13 If after 4.1.2 two or more applicants remain ranked equally to determine the winner, the score for those applicants only will be recalculated based on 1st and 2nd Preference Points only and the highest will be declared the winner of the Prize.

4.14 If after 4.13 two or more applicants remain ranked equally to determine the winner, they will be declared joint winners and the Prize split equally amongst those finalists.

4.15 The decision of the judging panel will be final, and the scores will not be released.

5.0 PRIZE VALUE

5.1 The Prize will be as advertised by the NSA and may change annually.

5.2 The Prize must be used within 12 months of awarding to cover expenses incurred in attending a national or international scientific meeting relevant to neurosurgery. The expenses covered by the Prize include registration fees, flights and accommodation. Receipts of the expenses claimed must be submitted to claim the Prize.

5.3 Where sponsorship is obtained, the sponsors' logo may be included on the Prize trophy and representatives of the sponsor may be involved in formal announcement and handover of the trophy.