

Rob Pierce Grant in Aid

This Grant commemorates Professor Rob Pierce who was tragically killed whilst defending his home in St Andrews, Victoria during the Black Saturday bushfire in February 2009. Rob was one of the handful of clinicians in Australia who recognised the importance of the burgeoning field of sleep medicine at an early stage. He developed clinical and investigative services and fostered research and training in sleep medicine at Heidelberg in Victoria, where he became the Director of Respiratory and Sleep Medicine at Austin Health with a Professorial appointment at the University of Melbourne. Rob established the Institute for Breathing and Sleep, was a founding member of the Australasian Sleep Trials Network and collaborated nationally and internationally on numerous projects in the field. Rob was always generous with his time and encouraged and supported new investigators to pursue their ideas and passions, as he had always done.



The purpose of this annual Grant in Aid is to facilitate a project in the field of sleep research for a new investigator who is a member of ASA or ASTA. Applicants should be training in sleep research or a clinical sleep discipline and be less than five years post doctorate (PhD or equivalent). The grant could be used as seed funding for a project, to collect pilot data or for equipment. It should not be used to supplement an existing project or for travel. The work must be undertaken in Australia or New Zealand. The successful applicant must report on the project at the ASA Annual Scientific Meeting within 12 months of completion. The maximum amount awarded for each project is \$AUD10,000. In the first instance, one Rob Pierce Grant in Aid will be awarded in 2009.

Applicants should submit the following to the ASA Secretariat, details below, for consideration by the ASA Research Committee:

1. Name and contact details of applicant
2. Brief CV of applicant including publications and presentations
3. Proof of new investigator status. You must
 - (i) be actively training in the fields of sleep health or sleep science and/or undertaking sleep-related research and/or involved in a clinical sleep discipline;
 - (ii) not have received competitive research funding of greater than \$50,000 as a chief investigator or equivalent from any source apart from institutions at which the researcher is or has been employed at the time of that employment;
 - (iii) not be more than five years post doctorate, except in extenuating circumstances.
4. Brief description (maximum 2000 words) of the project for which the funds will be used including (where applicable): background; aims and hypotheses and research plan.
5. Brief budget with justification including description of how the funds will be used

All applications should be submitted by 5pm, 31 July, 2009, to the address below.