**Instructions for applicants – ISHR Early Career Investigator Bursaries for Laboratory Visits, World Congress Buenos Aires, 2016**

Following on from the success of this initiative at the World Congress in San Diego in 2013, the ISHR International Council will sponsor five laboratory visit bursaries for Early Career Investigators (ECI) to undertake training in new techniques/methods at local Section institutes within the host region of the World Congress in 2016.

The purpose of the bursaries is to facilitate training visits for ECI to laboratories located in the World Congress host city/locale (i.e. Latin American Section). It is hoped that the bursaries will support ECI skill development, collaboration establishment and foster exchange between sections.

Five training bursaries of USD 1000 will be awarded to successful applicants prior to the World Congress. Bursaries are specifically for subsidizing travel and accommodation costs related to visiting the nominated lab to train in a new technique. Lab visits should occur immediately before or after the Congress and the expected duration is at least one week.

Details regarding eligibility criteria, selection criteria and the application process are outlined below. The relevant forms are available for download from the World Congress website: <http://www.ishrbuenosaires2016.org.ar/early-career-investigator-events>.

A list of potential host laboratories is also available via the website. Please note that this list is not comprehensive; all laboratories in the Latin American Section that satisfy the eligibility and selection criteria below are potential host laboratories.

The new deadline for applications is **Wednesday** **20th January, 2016**. Applicants will be advised of the outcome of their application by Friday 29th January.

**Eligibility criteria**

1. The travel bursaries are targeted at ECI, including students and fellows. Eligibility for the award will usually be limited to those within seven years of their terminal degree (e.g. MD or PhD) at the commencement of the Congress (18th April 2016). A certificate of proof is required. Career-delay issues may be considered in allowing extra time eligibility.
2. The head of the host lab must be a member in good standing of the ISHR (i.e. a paid ISHR member for 12 months or longer). The applicant must also be a paid member of the ISHR for 12 months or longer, unless they commenced their PhD less than two years prior to the opening day of the Congress.
3. Applicants must be first or last author of an abstract presented at the Congress, and must attend the Congress to be eligible.
4. Lab visits must be within the local Sectional region of the World Congress. As the 2016 Congress is in Buenos Aires, this encompasses all regions of the Latin American Section.
5. A bursary application consists of the completed application form (which contains host sponsor confirmation) and a one page CV.

**Selection criteria**

Applications will be scored using the following criteria:

1. Argued case for suitability of the host lab in relation to activities to be undertaken and relevance to applicant’s research program.
2. The described benefit expected from the lab visit (long- and short-term).
3. Applicant track record.
4. Applicant and sponsor contributions to local ISHR section.

**Application process**

1. Applicants must identify and contact the principal investigator (PI) of the lab they would like to visit. Applicants are strongly advised to be highly selective in their contact with PIs, and only contact those labs that have a specific technique that is closely linked to their own research. It is highly undesirable to canvass multiple potential sponsors.
2. Applicants should use the ‘Initial Contact Pro-forma' (available for download via the ECI page on the World Congress website) and send this to the head of the laboratory that they would like to visit.
3. With PI agreement to sponsor, an application can be submitted to the ISHR, consisting of the Application Form and a one page CV.
4. All applications must be submitted to **Kate Weeks (**[**kate.weeks@kcl.ac.uk**](mailto:kate.weeks@kcl.ac.uk)**) and Leslie Lobaugh (**[**llobaugh@nc.rr.com**](mailto:llobaugh@nc.rr.com)**) by Monday 11th January, 2016**. Applicants will be advised of the outcome of their application by Friday 22nd January.
5. Applicants are responsible for making all arrangements necessary for the lab visit, including negotiating suitable dates acceptable to the sponsoring PI.
6. Bursaries can be used only to support travel and accommodation costs related to the lab visit, not laboratory expenses.
7. All bursary recipients will be required to provide a brief review of their lab visit, to be submitted to the Council within 3 months after their visit. Reports may be selected for publication in Hearts, News & Views.

Please visit the ECI page on the World Congress website to download the Initial Contact Pro-Forma and the Application Form:   
<http://www.ishrbuenosaires2016.org.ar/early-career-investigator-events>.