**ANZMUSC Best Early Career Researcher (ECR) Paper of the Year Award 2023**

The Australia and New Zealand Musculoskeletal (ANZMUSC) Clinical Trials Network aims to optimise musculoskeletal health through high quality, collaborative clinical research. The network recognises that an important component to achieving this vision is supporting and encouraging Early Career Researchers (ECRs) and recognising their achievements.

ANZMUSC established the Best ECR Paper of the Year Award in 2022 to recognise the contribution of a member who has published a high-quality scientific paper in the field of musculoskeletal health.

**Award Guidelines**

Papers eligible for this award must be original research involving humans, that focus on any aspect of musculoskeletal health. Eligible papers must be published in the English language (published in any country). Eligible papers must have been published (electronically or in print) during the 2022 calendar year in a peer-reviewed journal. This includes research papers that are only available online. For papers that are “epub ahead of print” the date of first online publication of the final version will specify the publication year. All study designs are eligible, including clinical trials, systematic reviews and meta-analyses. Editorials, opinion pieces, narrative and clinical reviews are not eligible. A paper may only be nominated once for this award and will not be considered for multiple years by using different dates associated with epub vs. print formats. Nominations are due on September 8, 2023.

The ANZMUSC Scientific Advisory Committee will review all nominations. The panel reserves the right to not make an award during a calendar year. The panel also reserves the right to award a runner-up where a nomination is deemed worthy. The paper will be judged using the following criteria:

* **Addresses a critical gap or a significant innovation in musculoskeletal health**
* **Reports findings that have the potential to significantly impact clinical practice, patient outcomes, and/or healthcare delivery**
* **Uses methods of outstanding quality**
* **The nominated ECR’s contributions**

Current ANZMUSC Members (Associate or Full) may be nominated or self-nominate a paper for consideration. Only applications from ANZMUSC members will be accepted. Members may only submit ONE nomination for consideration during each calendar year.

**Eligibility**

The first author must be:

* A member of ANZMUSC
* An ECR (within 5 years of completing a PhD (or terminal degree (e.g. medical or physical therapy training)). Student Members are eligible for this award.
* Career disruptions will be considered for individuals who are further out from the 5-year eligibility time frame.

**Announcement**

The applicant of the winning paper will be notified on the 25th of October 2023. The winning paper will be announced publicly and recognised at the ANZMUSC Scientific Meeting (24th & 25th October 2023. The winning author is not required to be present in-person to be recognised for the award during the 2023 ANZMUSC October Scientific Meeting, however, the winning applicant may be invited to present a brief summary of their work (e.g. in-person, live virtually, recorded video).

**Prize**

The winning author of the Paper of the Year Award will be recognised through an ANZMUSC e-Newsletter and the ANZMUSC social media platforms. They will also receive complimentary registration at the face-to-face ANZMUSC Scientific Meeting in 2024 (or, in the case of inability to hold a face-to-face meeting that year, the next available face-to-face meeting) and a token prize.

**How to nominate a paper**

Current ANZMUSC members (Associate or Full) may self-nominate, or nominate another ANZMUSC member, for consideration by providing the following:

* **A completed nomination form signed by the applicant**
* **A PDF copy of the published paper and any supplementary materials.**

The nomination form can be found below.

**Nominations will close at 5:00pm AEST on Friday, September 8, 2023.** No further nominations will be accepted after the deadline.

Please submit the completed nomination form and the PDF copy of the publication and supplementary materials (with subject ‘ATTENTION: ANZMUSC Award Nomination’) to Helen Ramsay (admin@anzmusc.org).

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| --- | --- |
| Name |  |
| Institution |  |
| Email |  |
| Phone |  |
| Are you a current member of ANZMUSC? |  [ ]  Yes [ ]  No |
| Date of completion of PhD or terminal degree |  |
| Institution of PhD or terminal degree |  |
| If you are further than 5 years from completion of your PhD or terminal degree, please provide justification of any career disruptions that should be considered regarding your eligibility |  |
| Title of paper |  |
| Citation of the publication & doi |  |
| Date published (electronic or in print) |  |
| Study design |  |
| Does this paper include human participants? |  [ ]  Yes [ ]  No |

**Nomination Form**

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| **Summary of Paper (written by nominating author)** |
| Please provide a brief summary of the study and describe the paper according to each of the judging criteria below to warrant recognition as the Best ECR Paper of the Year (minimum 11-pt font; maximum 500 words in total for all four categories of the peer summary): |
| **Summary:**  |
| **Addresses a critical gap or a significant innovation in musculoskeletal health** |
| **Reports findings that will have the potential to significantly impact clinical practice, patient outcomes, and/or healthcare delivery** |
| **Uses methods of outstanding quality** |
| **The nominated ECR’s contributions** |

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| **Lay Summary of Paper (written by nominating author)** |
| Please provide a lay summary describing the paper and how the results are likely to impact patients with musculoskeletal conditions and/or the delivery of musculoskeletal healthcare (minimum 11-pt font; maximum 300 words). This should be suitable for publication on the ANZMUSC website or social media. |
| **Lay Summary:** |

[ ]  A PDF copy of the published paper including any supplementary files is provided with this nomination form.

**DECLARATION FORM**

[ ]  I have read the award guidelines and believe this paper is eligible to be considered for the ANZMUSC Best ECR Paper of the Year Award for Early Career Investigators.

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Signature Date