

MEDIA RELEASE

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Battle of the brains: bold young scientists compete for People's Choice Award

Australians are being encouraged to have their say by deciding who should be named the winner of the 2018 Centenary Institute Medical Innovation Award (CIMIA) People's Choice. The CIMIA is considered to be one of the most prestigious prizes for early-career researchers, by recognising bold young researchers who are taking the risks to ask the big questions of today.

A record-number of entries have been received for this year's Awards, demonstrating the breadth of young scientists working to find new ways to treat and cure society's most prolific diseases. Some of the projects include using computational models to eliminate Hepatitis C, learning how to switch drug-resistant melanoma into drug-sensitive melanoma, boosting the brain's reward system to treat anorexia, and investigating a potential link between gut bacteria and breast cancer.

These life-changing projects can be viewed on the [2018 Centenary Institute Medical Innovation Awards page](#), where members of the public are being encouraged to choose their favourite by clicking on the 'Vote' button on the individual entry pages.

The entry with the most votes will be crowned winner of the People's Choice Award, and will take home a \$2,000 cheque to help them continue their innovative research. Voting for this category closes on Sunday 16th September.

In addition to this prize, all entries will be carefully considered by a panel of internationally-renowned judges to determine the overall winner and runners-up of the 2018 Centenary Institute Medical Innovation Awards, which will be announced at a ceremony in Sydney on Wednesday 3rd October.

The winner of the In-Memory of Neil Lawrence Prize will receive \$30,000 from Commonwealth Private to support their project and a perpetual Nick Mount hand blown glass trophy. Second-place and third-place will receive \$15,000 and \$10,000, thanks to Bayer and Val Morgan respectively.

"Exceptional young scientists can be hard to keep in Australia and we hope this award will not only celebrate their achievements but also encourage a domestic culture of brilliance in medical research," says Centenary Institute Executive Director Mathew Vadas AO.

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For more information about Centenary Institute, visit www.centenary.org.au

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