



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AVANT OFFERS 22 SCHOLARSHIPS TO SUPPORT LIFE-CHANGING RESEARCH

Applications for the 2016 Avant Doctor in Training Research Scholarship Program are open. Twenty-two scholarships – more than any other year to date – valued at \$450,000, for both emerging and experienced researchers, are available.

Avant is offering funding for full-time, part-time and short-term research projects to support life-changing research to promote better patient outcomes and advance the careers of some of Australia's promising medical researchers:

Advancement of medicine category:	Quality in medicine category:
3 x \$50k full-time scholarships	2 x \$25k part-time scholarships
3 x \$25k part-time scholarships	8 x \$12,500k grants
6 x \$12,500k grants	

Conceived in 2012 in response to the difficulties young doctors face in securing research funding, the program has so far awarded 39 scholarships worth \$1.27 million, with 14 research projects completed to date.

In late 2015, 17 outstanding [young medical researchers](#) were awarded Doctor in Training Research Scholarships to fund a range of innovative research from trials to evaluate the effects of new colorectal surgical technology to a critical pilot qualitative study to explore the health and wellbeing of doctor's in training.

Dr Laila Ibrahim, a paediatric registrar and part-time Community and Child Health Fellow at The Royal Children's Hospital Melbourne, said she was delighted to win a full-time scholarship as not only will it allow her to focus on her research full-time, it lends weight to her research.

"Having that external body support you gives so much credibility to the research itself and to the researcher. I think having that line on my CV that I've had support from Avant is going to go a long, long way," she says.

Dr Ibrahim will lead a world-first randomised trial comparing the safety and efficacy of once daily home IV ceftriaxone versus inpatient IV flucloxacillin in 188 children who present to the emergency department at The Royal Children's Hospital with moderate to severe cellulitis.

"If this study shows that once daily ceftriaxone at home is a safe and effective way to treat moderate/severe cellulitis, the benefits in quality of life for children and their families and cost effectiveness will lead to this becoming the standard of care and change clinical practice," she says.

Commenting on the evolution of the scholarship program, Dr Gareth Crouch, Chair of Avant's Doctors in Training Advisory Council (DiTAC), said, "DiTAC, with the ongoing support of Avant, has been able to grow and evolve the scholarships to a point now where each year almost half a million dollars is provided to doctors in training, contributing to the scientific endeavour of the medical community."

"The core focus on doctors in training, often inexperienced in research, remains and makes this program unique".

To apply for the Avant Doctor in Training Research Scholarship Program 2016, applicants must be an intern, Resident Medical Officer or a Doctor in Training and an Avant member. For more information on the scholarship program, check the Avant [website](#) and download our scholarship Information Pack. Applications close 31 May 2016.