Dear ACDS members,

The ACDS committee is thrilled to launch the **2025 Mentorship Program** for early- to mid-career researchers (EMCRs). This pilot program is designed to pair junior members of the Australasian cell death community with esteemed leaders in the field. By fostering meaningful mentorship, this program aims to provide EMCRs with an invaluable opportunity to receive tailored guidance and perspectives to cultivate their professional growth, build confidence, and achieve their career aspirations.

**Program overview**

Our program will include:

* Connecting one EMCR (Mentee) with an ACDS Leader (Mentor):
  + Each Mentee is required to meet with their Mentor at least twice, either face-to-face or virtually during 2025.
  + Additional meetings are encouraged to maximise the benefits of mentorship*.*
  + Brief talking points and topics will be provided to facilitate initial discussion.
* Professional Development (PD) Workshops:
  + All Mentees are invited to attend the four exclusive ‘Rapid Fire’ PD workshops led by selected Mentors.
  + Topics will include career progression, job application strategies, grant writing,   
    and more.

**Available mentors**

We are extremely grateful to the following inspirational leaders in the Australasian cell death community who have generously agreed to support our junior researchers:

* Prof Peter Czabotar, WEHI (BCL-2 proteins, apoptosis, necroptosis, structural biology)
* A/Prof Helen Healy, UQ (kidney disease, inflammation, innate immunity, fibrosis)
* Dr Conor Kearney, ONJCRI (T cells, granzyme, cancer biology)
* Prof Sharad Kumar, Uni SA (autophagy, caspases, extracellular vesicles)
* Dr Larisa Labzin, UQ (macrophage, influenza, SARS-CoV-2, inflammation, pyroptosis)
* A/Prof Kate Lawlor, Hudson (apoptosis, pyroptosis, necroptosis, inflammation)
* Prof Seth Masters, Hudson (auto-inflammatory disease, inflammasomes, NLRP3)
* Prof Andrew Murphy, Baker (ferroptosis, inflammation, haematopoiesis)
* Prof James Murphy, WEHI (MLKL, necroptosis, pseudokinases)
* Dr Kim Newton, Genentech (RIPK1/3, necroptosis, inflammatory disease)
* Prof Ivan Poon, La Trobe University (apoptotic bodies, cell clearance, efferocytosis)
* Dr Jaclyn Pearson, St Andrews (microbiology, *E.coli*, infection and immunity)
* Prof Kate Schroder, UQ (Pyroptosis, inflammasomes, drug development)
* Prof Tri Phan, Garvan (Intravital microscopy, macrophages, apoptosis, B cells)
* Prof Andreas Strasser, WEHI (Apoptosis, blood cancers, p53, drug development)
* Prof Stephen Tait, Uni of Glasgow (mitochondria, apoptosis, minority MOMP)
* Prof Ana Traven, Monash (Fungal infections, Candida, macrophage)
* Dr Erinna Lee, ONJCRI (Apoptosis, autophagy, inflammatory bowl disease)
* A/Prof Doug Fairlie, ONJCRI (Autophagy, cancer cell death, BH3 mimetics)

**Eligibility and selection criteria**

To ensure the success of this program, applicants must meet the following criteria:

* Be an early- or mid-career researcher (up to 8 years post-PhD), including current PhD students.
* Be a registered member of the Australasian Cell Death Society .
* Demonstrate a commitment to career development and active participation in the field.
* Selection will be based on alignment with program goals, career stage, and availability of suitable mentors.

**Application Process**

To apply for the 2025 ACDS Mentorship Program, complete the application form on page 3 of this brief and submit the application to [auscelldeathsociety@gmail.com](mailto:auscelldeathsociety@gmail.com)   
by **Tuesday February 4th, 5pm**.

If you have any questions or need further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us at auscelldeathsociety@gmail.com.

Regards,

Georgia Atkin-Smith and Pooranee Morgan

<https://australasiancelldeathsociety.com/>

**Application for 2025 ACDS Mentorship program**

**Instruction to applicants**

This application form is to be completed when applying as a **Mentee** for the 2025 ACDS mentorship program.

On completion of the application, save as **SURNAME\_2025MP\_Application**, and email the application to [auscelldeathsociety@gmail.com](mailto:auscelldeathsociety@gmail.com) by **Monday February 4th, 5pm** for consideration. Please note that if successful, Mentees will be required to complete a survey and provide program feedback to aid the development of the ACDS Mentorship Program.

**Applicant details**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name |  |
| Email address |  |
| Position |  |
| If you are a student, what year did you commence your PhD? |  |
| If you are post-PhD, what year was your PhD awarded? |  |
| Name of current supervisor |  |
| Institute, Department |  |
| Scientific Interests  *Enter up to 3 keywords* |  |
| Intended career trajectory | * Group Leader, Basic Research * Group Leader, Translation Research * Postdoctoral Researcher * Industry * Others, please specify: |
| Preferred Gender of Mentor | * Male * Female * No preference |
| Preferred Mentors:  *Please list up to 3 mentors from the provided mentor list.* | *While we will strive to match you with one of your preferred choices, placements will depend on mentor availability and alignment with your research goals.* |
| Personal statement  *We acknowledge that the best mentorship relationships stem from authentic connections between likeminded people. Therefore, please tell us, in a few sentences, a bit about yourself, your current experience and goals. Include any circumstances that should be taken into consideration when assessing your application. (max 250 words)* | |
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