

YOUNG EMERGING HIV SCIENTISTS FELLOWSHIP (YES) - SUPPORTING INVESTMENTS IN THE FUTURE WORKFORCE IN THE HIV SCIENCES

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Background/Purpose:

The Gilead Young Emerging HIV Scientists (YES) Fellowship was a program initiated in early in 2023 by Gilead Sciences Australia with the aim of supporting undergraduate/master's students from across Australia to consider future study options in the variety of disciplines that make up the HIV sciences.

Approach:

This fellowship program identified four students through a national competition and provide them with an opportunity to see first-hand the diversity of work currently being done across the HIV sciences in Australia at four of the leading research centres focusing on HIV, and to participate at the IAS 2023 conference in Brisbane. The Fellows were supported to attend participating centres/institutes in both Sydney and Melbourne, with the opportunity to interact with higher research degree students as well as with leading HIV researchers based at these sites.

Outcomes/Impact:

The program was conceived where one of the fellows would be partnered with an individual research centre/institute and mentor. This was identified early on by the program leaders from the centres/ institutes as a limited opportunity which missed the option of creating better bonds between the four fellows as well as showcasing the work of each research centre/institute to the full group. As such, the program aims were modified to be as follows:

1. To support program advisors at each of the four participating research centres/institutes to provide direction and guidance to further refine and develop the program to ensure leadership across all aspects of the program.
2. To establish progressive program goals such as knowledge gains in HIV, appreciation of the HIV sector response; appreciation of novel topics in their programs of study and their potentiality of ongoing participation in a higher degree research program

Innovation and Significance:

Investments in the future of HIV science requires the most talented people to be identified early in their careers and that they have an opportunity to have hands on

experience and engage with leading HIV professionals to sustain the global response to HIV.

Disclosure of Interest Statement:

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