

2023 Physical Chemistry Division Lectureship



Nominations should be submitted by midnight on Friday 23 June 2023.

The Division of Physical Chemistry invites nominations for the 2023 RACI Physical Chemistry Division Lectureship. We are seeking applications from early to mid-career researchers who display **research excellence, independence, creativity, impact and vision** in the areas of physical and theoretical/computational chemistry. The award will be assessed based on these five criteria.

The Physical Chemistry Division of the RACI has established a funded Lectureship to allow outstanding early- and mid-career physical chemists to travel around Australia and present the results of their research work. Lectures may be delivered virtually and/or in person. We encourage in-person visits, as increased networking is a significant benefit of the lectureship.

Nominations should be submitted by midnight on Friday 23 June 2023. Electronic submissions only will be accepted and should be sent to the Physical Chemistry Division Physical.div@raci.org.au.

The conditions of the lectureship are:

1. There is no age limit, and applications will be assessed relative to research opportunity.
2. Nominees must be within eleven years (*extended deadline due to COVID to be retained for two years*) of the award of their Ph.D. (or equivalent) and hold an academic, government or industrial position equivalent to at least academic Level B.
3. Nominees must be financial corporate members of the Royal Australian Chemical Institute Inc.
4. Nominees should not have been previously invited to present a plenary lecture at an RACI Physical Chemistry Divisional meeting.
5. Only in exceptional circumstances will individuals falling outside these bounds be considered.
6. Nomination support letters of less than 1 A4 page are required from two Corporate Members of the Royal Australian Chemical Institute. Nominators should focus on the nominee's research excellence, independence, impact and vision but may also wish to include brief discussion of the nominee's contribution to the Australian physical chemistry community, mentoring, leadership, collegiality and student training as part of the nominee's broader research excellence.

7. Nominees are required to supply:

- Statement of up to 3 pages addressing the selection criteria
- Curriculum vitae of up to 3 pages discussing your research excellence since PhD
- A full list of publications.
- A brief statement of your research opportunities since PhD including any career interruptions and reduced opportunities for research
- 2 nomination support letters
- Title and abstract of the lecture that would be given if the application is successful
- Brief proposal of some institutions you plan to present at if awarded the lectureship

Requirement of the Lectureship:

8. The Lecturer will be expected to present a lecture in at least six state capitals and/or major regional centres during the year of the Lectureship. Some lectures may be given virtually. It is expected that the successful applicant will present (either physically or virtually) outside of their own state or territory in meeting this criterion. The RACI will pay reasonable travel expenses up to a maximum of \$3,000 that is paid as reimbursement of costs incurred. Where possible, host institutions are expected to meet local accommodation and subsistence costs.

9. The final lecture program will be developed in consultation with the Selection Committee, with final approval by the Chair of the Physical Chemistry Division.

10. A brief written report of the lecture series should be provided to the Division Chair within 3 months of the final lecture being delivered.

Management of Conflicts of Interest:

11. The Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer of the Division as position holders will be ineligible to apply for lectureship awards during their time on the Division Committee. Other committee members are eligible to apply, but they must declare so before the commencement of the award process. They will be excluded from all discussions involving the award, including setting criteria, receiving or viewing applications, and assessment of applications.

12. The Selection Panel shall normally include the Division Chair (as Convenor), Secretary, Treasurer, and previous Chair, subject to any conflicts of interest. Additional Panel Members from the physical chemistry community will be included to provide expert assessment and to ensure diversity requirements as set out by RACI EDI policy, including an ECR representative. The identity of the assessment panel will be published following the assessment of all applications.

13. To avoid conflicts of interest either perceived or real, panel members cannot assess individual applications (i) from the same institution, (ii) if they have published with the individual in the past 5 years, or (iii) who have a substantive previous relationship with the individual (e.g.

PhD supervisor). If an applicant would like to raise additional concerns around conflicts of interest or assessment of their application, they may do so confidentially to the Division Chair, Secretary, or Treasurer who will consult with RACI National Office to ensure a fair assessment process.

Assessment Process:

14. The assessment is based on an evaluation by panellists of the relative merits of each applicant in the following five areas (equally weighted):

- **research excellence:** research output, impact (citations), funding & award successes and similar
- **independence:** clear evidence of research leadership, establishing new collaborations, ideas & direction separate from previous advisors
- **creativity:** imaginative, novel & useful ideas addressing important problems and/or important gaps in the literature
- **impact:** impact of their research papers & ideas, and research-related service activities (e.g. conference organisation, RACI involvement, workshops etc) on any relevant community
- **vision:** clear & strong idea of their research portfolio, strengths & future directions

15. Each panel member will be asked to assess multiple applications and provide a moderated numerical evaluation against these five selection criteria.

16. The panel reserves the right not to make an award.

Nominations must be submitted to the Division by **midnight on Friday 23 June 2023**. Electronic submissions only will be accepted and should be sent to email: Physical.div@raci.org.au. For all enquiries, please contact the Division Secretary, Dr Laura McKemmish, or Chair, Prof David Wilson.