

Dr. Dhiva Eliezer

John Hunter Hospital

2 Lookout Road

New Lambton Heights, NSW Australia 2305

November 23rd, 2018

To whom it may concern,

Thank you for considering my application for the 2019 International Research Travel Awards.

The project I am presenting at the 14th Academic Surgical Congress is titled: "High risk emergency laparotomy in Australia: Comparing NELA, P-POSSUM and ACS-NSQIP Calculators." Through this project, I hope to look at the various factors contributing to high risk laparotomy morbidity and mortality and validate the utility of the NELA risk prediction calculator (NRPC) which has been derived from data in the United Kingdom with a very different healthcare system to Australia.

My co-authors are affiliated with John Hunter Hospital and the University of Newcastle in New South Wales, Australia. The team includes; myself (Dr. Dhiva Eliezer; a research student undertaking a Master of Philosophy in Surgical Sciences), Dr. Merran Holmes (surgical trainee in general surgery), Dr. Gavin Sullivan (Anaesthetic consultant), Dr. Jonathan Gani (Director of Surgery, recently retired Hepatobiliary surgeon) and Dr. Peter Pockney (Colorectal and University Academic Surgeon). This project has no specific funding attached to it and has been driven purely by the interests of those involved for the benefit of our patients.

As a current full-time higher research degree student through the University of Newcastle, I am driven to increase the knowledge-base in surgery to provide better outcomes for my patients and become an authority in my chosen area of specialisation within surgery. Due to current limited funding in Australia for research and fierce competition, I have no current study scholarships and only minimal funding which is being used to further my research aims. By gaining this award, I will be able to focus on my ongoing research and not use valuable time and resources in looking at alternative options to help fund this trip.

Thank you again for your kind consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Dhiva Eliezer (MBBS, M. Traumatology)

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