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# The 2017 Aileen Plant Memorial Prize in Infectious Diseases Epidemiology

## Professor Aileen Plant, 1948-2007

Professor Aileen Plant was a renowned Australian Infectious Diseases Epidemiologist, whose sudden passing on 27 March 2007 at the age of 58, while working in Jakarta, was an enormous loss to Global and Australian public health.

She was a medical epidemiologist, as well as Professor of International Health at Curtin University of Technology and by any measure, one of the World Health Organisation's leading experts in outbreak investigation. Professor Plant also held the position of Deputy Chief Executive Officer of the Australian Biosecurity CRC for Emerging Infectious Diseases.



She had extensive experience in outbreak investigation, but her main research interests were in the applied and policy aspects of infectious disease control. She was passionate about her work and travelled extensively, often at great risk to herself, to help people and countries in need of her expertise.

It was her vast experience in the field which prompted WHO to invite her to join an expert investigation team being assembled in Vietnam to investigate the outbreak of a deadly virus, later to become known as SARS. Professor Plant and the medical investigation team in Hanoi worked tirelessly to identify the virus and to develop a method for its control, again at great risk to their own personal safety.

In recognition of her leadership during the SARS epidemic, Professor Plant was awarded the National Medal of Honour by the Vietnamese Government for her leadership of the SARS outbreak control program.

To honour her legacy to infectious diseases epidemiology, The University of New South Wales and the Department of Health and Ageing together offer an annual National competition for the Aileen Plant Memorial Prize in Infectious Diseases.

## CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

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Applications for the 2017 award close Friday April 28<sup>th</sup> 2017; The winner will be announced and the prize will be presented at the Communicable Diseases Control Conference 26-28 June 2017 in Melbourne.

## GUIDELINES FOR APPLICANTS

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### Eligibility:

The Aileen Prize Memorial Prize will be awarded annually for a first author paper by an Australian researcher, published in the previous calendar year in a peer-reviewed medical journal in the area of infectious diseases epidemiology. The prize consists of AU \$2000 and a certificate.

The applicant must be an Australian citizen or permanent resident.

The applicant must be first author on the submitted paper.

The paper must have been published in the previous calendar year. The 2017 prize will be for a single piece of work published between January 1<sup>st</sup> 2016 and December 31<sup>st</sup> 2016. In press or submitted works are not eligible. Applicants can only submit a single paper – multiple papers from a single applicant will not be accepted.

Applications must comprise:

1. a copy of the published paper,
2. a cover letter of a maximum of 2 pages, double spaced, using 12 point Times New Roman font addressing the judging criteria, and
3. any supporting documentation.

Applications must be submitted electronically to Professor Raina MacIntyre with “Application for Aileen Plant Memorial prize” in the subject line: [r.macintyre@unsw.edu.au](mailto:r.macintyre@unsw.edu.au)

The applicant must respond to each of the judging criteria, providing evidence to support each one:

1. **Journal impact factor**
2. **Citations** – to be judged relative to month of publication.
3. **Epidemiologic rigour of the study** – applicants should discuss alternative study designs and why the chosen design was ideal for the study. They should also discuss analytic methods and why the chosen analysis was most suitable. Limitations of the study must also be discussed.
4. **Public health impact** – applicants should outline whether the study resulted in any changes to policy or practice, or other public health impact, giving evidence of this.
5. **Completeness of application submitted by deadline** – incomplete applications or applications submitted after the deadline will be ineligible.

The applications will be judged by a panel of experts including representatives from UNSW and the Department of Health. Judges will declare any potential conflicts before discussing the applications and will be excluded from discussion for any paper on which a panel member has a conflict.

In fairness to all other applicants who have not yet received the award, the application from past award recipients will not be accepted.

**See website for more details:**

<https://sphcm.med.unsw.edu.au/research/infectious-diseases/aileen-plant-memorial-prize>