

Division of Neuropsychology (DoN) Guidelines: DEIRDRE McMACKIN Memorial Medal

This award, first made in 2007, is in memory of the late Dr Deirdre McMackin and her contribution to the development of Neuropsychology in Ireland. The award will be made on 10 occasions. The award will be made to an individual judged by the DoN Judging Panel to have made a significant contribution to the field of Neuropsychology as evidenced by the submission of a paper reporting new research findings and delivery of a platform presentation at the Psychology Society of Ireland (PSI) Annual Conference. This may be submitted to PSI either as a stand alone “Research paper” or as part of a Symposium. The award recipient will be presented with a certificate of recognition at the PSI Annual Conference. Following the Conference the PSI office will arrange for the year and recipient’s name to be engraved on a commemorative medal which will be posted to him/her with a copy of these guidelines (see below regarding accessing funds from the honorarium).

Eligibility

This is an early career award and is open only to individuals less than ten years after their primary Psychology degree. The recipient of the Award will be chosen from Neuropsychology related papers reporting new research findings accepted by the PSI Conference Committee for platform presentation, and verified as eligible for consideration for the award by the DoN Judging Panel. The Award will be given for papers on clinical and human Neuropsychology. To be considered for the award the person submitting the work must also be the presenter.

Before the Conference the PSI Conference Committee will send to the DoN Secretary the abstracts from all individuals who have indicated in their Conference submission that they wish to be considered for the award. The DoN Judging Panel will check each submission to ensure that they fully meet the eligibility criteria. The DoN Judging Panel will inform the PSI Conference Committee of any submissions found to be not eligible, explaining why. As only the PSI Conference Committee will know the identities of submission authors the PSI Conference Committee will notify any author whose submission is not eligible for the award.

The panel of judges

Each year the DoN Judging Panel will be convened by the DoN Chair who will decide the number of judges. Judges will be full members of DoN or invited experts in the field of Neuropsychology in Ireland. The judges will use a standardized rating evaluation form to rate the presentations (see “PSI Deirdre McMackin Award Evaluation Form”). This will not be made available to presenters.

Assessment criteria

1. The importance and relevance of the research topic to Neuropsychology;
2. The novelty and/or value of the work in contributing to the field of Neuropsychology in Ireland;
3. The technical depth of the paper;
4. Evidence of extensive knowledge of the area and the expertise of the presenter;
5. The overall quality of the presenter’s presentation skills.

The Award

The successful candidate will receive a commemorative medal (The Deirdre McMackin Memorial Medal), a certificate of recognition, and an honorarium. Ten medals have been produced and are stored in PSI Head Office. PSI will look after the engraving of the year and the recipient’s name. PSI will take responsibility for production of the certificate of recognition as part of the work undertaken in relation to the PSI Annual Conference.

The honorarium for €2000 is paid out of DoN funds. It can be used by the recipient for Clinical or academic Neuropsychology related activities (e.g. research or CPD-related activities). There is no time limit by which the award must be spent. The honorarium will be administered by the Accounts Manager in PSI. The recipient must apply for drawdown of funds directly to the Treasurer of DoN who will then liaise with the DoN Committee and the Accounts Manager in PSI. Recipients must send receipts for all expenditure to the Treasurer of DoN.

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