

FACTA – PM Separations Innovation and Impact Award

Guidelines for Applicants

Background

PM Separations has played a long-standing and active role in supporting the forensic and clinical toxicology community across the Oceania region. As a specialist supplier of analytical columns, drug reference materials, and innovative separation technologies, PM Separations works closely with laboratories, researchers, and method developers operating at the forefront of drug analysis. PM Separations has maintained a close partnership with FACTA since its inauguration, supporting its mission to advance best practice, foster scientific excellence, and promote collaboration across forensic, clinical, and analytical toxicology disciplines.

Through ongoing engagement with FACTA members, PM Separations actively supports the development, optimisation, and application of robust analytical methodologies, particularly in areas such as emerging drugs, complex biological matrices, and high-throughput analysis. In recognition of this shared commitment, PM Separations sponsors the **FACTA PM Separations Innovation & Impact Award** to directly support knowledge sharing and innovation within the FACTA community.

Overview

The **FACTA PM Separations Innovation & Impact Award** is an industry-sponsored initiative that provides financial assistance for FACTA members to attend and present their work at a FACTA scientific meeting. The Award supports members who are delivering innovative, applied, or optimised analytical work *that incorporates PM Separations products* such as LC columns, drug standard mixes, enzymes or novel analytical methods, with a strong emphasis on practical outcomes and scientific impact within forensic and clinical toxicology.

Objectives of the Award

The objectives of the Award are in accordance with the FACTA Statement of purpose:

- Advance the study and practice of forensic and clinical toxicology in our region
- Support dissemination of high-quality scientific work at FACTA meetings
- Encourage innovation, optimisation, and practical application of analytical methodologies
- Promote engagement between industry and the toxicology community
- Support professional development of FACTA members

Amount of Funding

Each year, the Award will provide financial assistance of up to a maximum of AUD \$4000 to the awardee. This will cover travel, accommodation, meeting registration, and other expenses incurred in line with the aims of the Award. The awardee is responsible for managing their own bookings and travel requirements, including medical and travel insurance. The Award is not to be used to cover the cost of meals, miscellaneous personal expenses, or accompanying persons. The Award serves as reimbursements of meeting registration, travel and accommodation expenses, based on receipts and other proof of purchase. Prepayments of expenses will not be considered.

Eligibility Criteria

Any member of FACTA is eligible to apply for the Award, provided that they have been a financial member for at least one full year at the application's closing deadline. *Applicants must have an accepted abstract involving PM Separations products.* No exceptions to these requirements will be made.

Award Application Process

No less than three months prior to the FACTA meeting, updated information on FACTA Travel Grants will be communicated to members announcing the opening and closing dates for the current round of grant applications. All interested candidates **MUST** complete an online application and provide supporting documentation to be considered for the Award. The application requires demonstration of a number of criteria that will be used by the Awards Board (comprising of representatives from PM Separations and the FACTA Board) in deciding the candidate most deserving to receive the Award for that year.

Desirable criteria for the award:

- Abstract accepted for the meeting
- Length of time actively working/studying in the field of forensic or clinical toxicology and relevant positions held
- Attendance and presentations at previous FACTA meetings and/or other scientific meetings
- Potential benefit to the applicant (of both the scientific meeting and lab visits)
- Rationale for financial assistance
- Previous FACTA grants and awards received (previous winners are excluded)
- Utilisation of PM Separations products in work for presentation at meeting.

Recipient Responsibilities

Each FACTA-PM Travel Grant awardee is required to attend the entire FACTA meeting. This includes being present in all scientific sessions, poster sessions, business meeting and social events, including the gala dinner. Failure to actively attend the meeting may result in forfeiture of the grant. Within one month after the end of the FACTA meeting, each grant awardee is required to provide a report to the FACTA Board on the value they gained from attending the meeting, which will be published in the FACTA Newsletter.