

# Guidelines for the Olaf Drummer Education Award

## OVERVIEW

Professor Olaf Drummer earned his PhD from the University of Melbourne in 1980 and was awarded an honorary doctorate (Doctor Honoris Causa) from the University of Antwerp in 2016. With over 40 years of experience in the analysis of drugs and poisons and the interpretation of their biological effects, he has made significant contributions to the field. He has extensively published in forensic pharmacology and analytical toxicology including peer-reviewed scientific papers, chapters and books. He has served as an expert forensic pharmacologist and toxicologist in hundreds of cases both in Australia and internationally.

Olaf Drummer is a past president of The International Association of Forensic Toxicologists (TIAFT) and a member of several national and international associations. He serves as the editor for toxicology and drug manuscripts for Forensic Science International and sits on the editorial boards of multiple journals. Additionally, he is an honorary Fellow of the Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia (RCPA), a founding fellow of the Faculty of Science within the RCPA, and a fellow of the Australasian College of Biomedical Scientists (ACBS).

Throughout his career, Olaf has made significant contributions to forensic toxicology and has been recognised with numerous awards, including the Irving Sunshine Award from IATDMCT, the Alan Curry Award from TIAFT, and the prestigious Jean Servais Stas Medal for his achievements in forensic chemistry. The latter award was presented to him at the German Society of Toxicology and Forensic

Chemistry (GTFCh) conference in Mosbach, Germany, from 17-20 April 2013.

In 2010, Professor Drummer founded the Forensic and Clinical Toxicology Association (FACTA) to advance the study and practice of forensic and clinical toxicology in Australasia. His efforts and example have inspired toxicologists worldwide to pursue excellence in science and share knowledge and experiences within the field.

Following his lead, FACTA recognises the importance of ongoing education for its members and offers the Olaf Drummer Education Award. This prestigious award is granted annually to one FACTA member, enabling them to travel to international scientific meetings relevant to forensic and clinical toxicology and visit pertinent laboratories. Unlike FACTA travel grants, which fund attendance at biennial FACTA meetings, this award specifically supports broader educational opportunities.

This document serves as a guide for eligible applicants to prepare and submit an application for the Olaf Drummer Education Award, as well as the assessment process and recipient obligations for the awardee.



## OBJECTIVES OF AWARD

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

- Create a scientific forum to disseminate knowledge of the principles and practice of forensic and clinical toxicology and related drug testing disciplines.
- To advance the study and practice of forensic and clinical toxicology in Australasia.
- To protect and promote the interests of forensic and clinical toxicology.
- To allow students the opportunity to network and gain exposure within toxicology and expand on postgraduate studies.

## AMOUNT OF FUNDING

Each year, the Award will provide financial assistance of up to a maximum of AUD \$5000 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. No exceptions to these requirements will be made. The travel must be conducted by the end of the next calendar year

after the award is granted (e.g. travel for the 2022 award must be completed by 31 December 2023).

## AWARD APPLICATION PROCESS

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 FACTA Board in deciding the candidate most deserving to receive the Award for that year.

Among the criteria that will be evaluated are the following:

- Length of FACTA membership;
- If an abstract has been submitted/accepted for the meeting(s);
- 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 other scientific meetings;
- Potential benefit to the applicant (of both the scientific meeting and lab visits);
- Explanation of the need for the financial assistance;
- Previous FACTA grants and awards received

**Note that previous winners of the Award will not be considered.**

All applications must be completed by the stated deadline to be considered. The deadline for submission is the **28th of February** for travel to be completed by the end of the following calendar year. Once the deadline has passed, the FACTA President will collate the applications and distribute them to all FACTA Board members for assessment.

### **ASSESSMENT OF APPLICATIONS**

All FACTA Board Members will independently review and score the applications for the Award and then participate in a group discussion to decide on the awardee.

### **NOTIFICATION OF AWARD RECIPIENTS**

Within one week of the Board's Award review meeting, the FACTA President will notify all applicants by email of the outcome of their application. The awardees will be also contacted by the FACTA Treasurer to discuss recipient obligations and the process for payment of funds.

### **PAYMENT**

It is important to realise that the Award provides reimbursements of expenses and not prepayments of these expenses by FACTA. Award payments are arranged with the FACTA Treasurer and are made after receipts of expenses are provided. All payments will be made within 30 days after receiving the relevant receipts, and can be made by cheque or bank transfer (EFT).

### **REPORTING REQUIREMENTS AND AWARD RECIPIENT RESPONSIBILITIES**

Within one month after their return from the meeting, the awardee is required to provide a report to the FACTA Board on the value they gained from the meeting and laboratory visits provided through the Award funding. This report will be published in the FACTA Newsletter .

### **[Apply via FACTA Website](#)**

### **Olaf Drummer Education Award Guidelines**

*Last Updated February 2025.*