

BACKGROUND

Professor Roger Thornton passed away on 19th October 2017 and a Memorial Fund has been created in his name to support students to attend and present their research at scientific conferences, and gain a broader perspective of audiological research. Professor Roger Thornton graduated with a degree in Electronics before being awarded his PhD in 1969 whilst working at the Institute of Sound and Vibration Research at the University of Southampton.

Roger developed expertise in auditory electrophysiology; his research interests led him to develop the clinical use of the human ABR to identify tumours of the auditory brainstem and measurement of the cochlear travelling wave velocity, of relevance to frequency coding within the cochlear and to Ménière's disease. Roger was made Professor and became the Director of the Southampton outstation of the MRC Institute of Hearing Research where he coordinated a major study of the OAE as a screening test for neonates. This work helped form the foundation upon which the English newborn hearing screening programme was built.

The Roger Thornton Memorial Fund is open for applications from UK based students to support the travel and associated costs with presenting the findings of their research at scientific conferences. Applications are open to both members and non-members of the BSA, however it would be expected that the winner of the award would become a BSA member (BSA membership is free to students).

Applicants must meet the following eligibility criteria:

1. They must be UK-based students at a UK Higher Education Institute. They can be students at either undergraduate or postgraduate level.
2. The nature of their research must be directly related to audiology/hearing science.
3. The research submission has been accepted (or provisionally accepted) for presentation at a scientific conference

Applicants must agree to provide:

- A report on their research findings and conference attendance for publication in the BSA Audacity magazine.
- If the research is appropriate to BSA online learning, the successful applicants may also be given the opportunity to record a presentation for the online learning section of the BSA website.
- The presentation will give due credit to the BSA and the Roger Thornton Memorial Fund.

CONDITIONS OF THE AWARD

Travel awards will be limited to a maximum of £1,000 per applicant. Where the cost of attending an event exceeds this maximum award, BSA will consider funding part of the costs as long as alternative funding to cover the remaining costs are in place. However, proof of acceptance would be required before funding is released. Clear justification for the required travel costs must be given. While economy must be a major consideration in incurring any expenditure, regard will also be given to convenience. For example, travel by bus might be the cheapest means of travel between two places, but the extra time taken may make use of a private car the preferred choice. Travel and accommodation should be arranged at the earliest possible opportunity to secure the best price, especially in relation to air and rail travel. All claims must be accompanied by receipts.

Accommodation: Whilst an applicant is entitled to stay in a hotel of reasonable standard, in a single room with ensuite facilities, the cost should be kept to a minimum, by using the lowest cost hotel available, commensurate with appropriate standards. Overnight accommodation costs will only be met if cheaper than the same day travel, and should only be requested if travel on the same day is not possible or would cause unreasonable inconvenience.

Travel: The most economical, efficient, effective and appropriate means of transport should be used - economy class or standard class for rail fares, taking advantage wherever possible of Advance booking and any reduced rates such as 'split ticketing', including use of any railcard possible. First class travel will be paid only if this is cheaper or equivalent to standard or economy class. If it is possible to buy the tickets on the day of travel at a cheaper rate than pre-booked tickets this may still be done. When overseas travel is necessary, or there is a need to travel extensively within the UK, travel by plane is possible, at the cheapest rate available. Mileage allowance for use of personal cars will be paid at 40p per mile for the first 100 miles in any one day or on separate days for a return journey not on the same day. Additional miles payable at 30p per mile.

APPLICATIONS:

Applicants are required to complete the application form providing:

1. Proof of their current student status.
2. Abstract of their research submission (maximum 250 words) with proof of acceptance
3. Details of event where research is to be presented.
4. Statement of justification for their intended travel together with details of their travel and accommodation costs (maximum 500 words).
5. Supporting letter from academic supervisor at the Higher Education Institute

Applications should be sent via email to bsa@thebsa.org.uk at least 4 months prior to the event concerned. All applicants must state 'Roger Thornton Memorial Fund' in the email subject heading.

JUDGING:

Applications will be considered by a Research Development Group panel and either the BSA Chair or Vice Chair. Applications approved by the panel will then be submitted to BSA Council members for endorsement.

Priority will be given to the following applications:

1. Research aligned to one of the BSA special interest groups
2. Research in Electrophysiology
3. Invited oral presentation
4. National or international event
5. Well written & clearly described abstract