

Award of sanofi-aventis educational grant

At the previous South African Society of Psychiatrists (SASOP) conference, held in the Drakensburg in September 2004, a series of discussions between the then Sanofi-Synthelabo CNS product manager Althea Fordyce and the Journal took place. The discussions centered on how Sanofi Synthelabo might contribute to South African psychiatry. These discussions were initiated by Prof. David Castle (University of Melbourne), who was one of the international guest speakers at that conference, and culminated in the decision to fund an educational grant using South African Psychiatry Review as the vehicle. The aim was to promote research endeavor. The merger with Sanofi-Synthelabo and Aventis was concluded in November 2004 and despite the subsequent change in company structure, the commitment to this cause remained and the process of awarding a R50 000 grant annually, over the 5 years following commencement, was initiated in 2005. The process of selecting a recipient involved a review, by the editorial board of the Journal, of all eligible articles published in the Journal as of the May 2005 edition, up to and including the February 2006 edition. Eligibility related to the first author needing to be resident and working in the field of psychiatry in South Africa. The winner of the award was adjudicated by a panel comprising of members of the

editorial board of South African Psychiatry Review. Sanofi-Aventis was not involved in this selection process which was completed at the end of June 2006. We are proud to announce that the recipients of the inaugural Sanofi-Aventis Educational Grant of R50 000 are: Martin C Scholtz, Melissa S Janse van Rensburg, J. Louw Roos, Herman W Pretorius, Maria Karayiorgou and Jonathan B Levin for their paper titled "Early non-psychotic deviant behaviour as an endophenotypic marker in bipolar disorder, schizo-affective disorder and schizophrenia" published in the November 2005 edition of the Journal. The award will be made at the gala dinner of the forthcoming SASOP conference to be held in Swaziland (10-14 September 2006). A sincere word of thanks to Prof. Werdie Van Staden, the conference Convener, who saw to it that the award would be made at this event as well as a word of thanks to those editorial board members who contributed their time as well as to Sanofi-Aventis for their vision and commitment to South African psychiatry.

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