Frequently Asked Questions
Vesalius Trust Research Grant Application

1. What are the roles of the AMI and the Vesalius Trust?
Every year, the AMI scholarship committee reviews and ranks the Vesalius Trust grant applications. The committee is composed of 8-10 professional members who've attended various educational institutions and who have varied medical illustration specialties. All reviewers have volunteered to participate in the grant application review process because they want to help future members of our profession. Each year, the scholarship committee members review the applications and determine a final ranking based on the judging criteria. This final ranking is then given to the Vesalius Trust.

All questions about the application and the application process should be directed to either of the AMI scholarship Co-Chairs, Josh Bird or Chris Smith, vtscholarship2018@gmail.com.

The Vesalius Trust does not review the applications. The Trust receives the final ranking provided by the AMI Scholarship Committee (a list of student names, project titles, school affiliation, and final score) and determines the award amounts. Final award announcements come from the Trust.

All questions regarding award announcements should be directed to the Trust. Tina Schott, tina@vesaliustrust.org

2. What are the judging criteria?
The judging criteria are available online.

3. What is the difference between the faculty advisor and the preceptor?
The faculty advisor is someone within your school’s illustration program. The preceptor is a subject matter expert, either someone who teaches at your school but is outside your illustration program, or someone outside of your school. The preceptor should be someone with particular expertise or knowledge in your research area. Both individuals may be teachers, but only the faculty advisor should be from within your illustration program.

4. Transcripts
a. Can I submit an unofficial transcript?
No, all transcripts must be official transcripts.

b. Should I submit an undergraduate transcript as well as my graduate transcript? If you are currently an undergraduate student, please submit your undergraduate transcript. If you are a graduate student, please submit only your graduate transcript.

c. Do you accept electronic transcripts?
Yes, official electronic transcripts are preferred, wherever possible. Please have them sent to the AMI Scholarship Chair.
5. How will I know that my application has been received?
You'll receive an automatic confirmation email when you submit your materials. Subsequently, you'll receive a personal email from the Scholarship Chair when all your materials have arrived and been confirmed.

6. Notification
a. When will I find out if I'll receive an award?
You’ll be notified by the Trust in late February if you have been selected to receive an award.

b. Will I find out if I don't receive one?
Yes, you’ll be notified by the Trust in late February if you have not been selected to receive an award.

7. Presentation of research
The applications for Vesalius Trust research grants are project proposals, and are reviewed before the applicants complete the final project.

At the annual AMI meeting, the Vesalius Trust Student Scientific Presentations and the Vesalius Trust Student Scientific Poster Session provide two opportunities for students to be judged on the presentation of the final outcome of their projects rather than the proposal.

a. What are the Vesalius Trust Student Scientific Presentations?
Select students who receive awards are invited to make a live presentation of their projects at that year’s AMI meeting. Presentations are limited to the top 5 award winners. Students who are eligible will be contacted directly by the VT Student Scientific Presentations Chair.

b. What is the Vesalius Trust Student Scientific Poster Session?
The Vesalius Trust Student Scientific Poster Session is open to all research grant applicants, including those who have been invited to participate in the VT Student Scientific Presentation. A student does not need to have received an award to participate in the poster session. The only requirement is that student must be present at the AMI meeting to participate. A “call for posters” will be made by the VT Student Scientific Presentation Chair in advance of the annual meeting.

c. What is required for the Poster session?
Poster session participants are asked to create a poster (a template will be provided) and present it at the 50 minute poster session. The cost of printing is covered by funds from the Vesalius Trust. All posters will be printed in advance of the AMI meeting and the students will be able to take the poster home with them.
8. Can I get feedback on my application?
Students who wish to receive feedback on their application may make a request by sending an email to the AMI Scholarship Chair. A spreadsheet with anonymous reviewer comments will be delivered via email. Due to the volume of applications received each year, it’s difficult to offer detailed feedback on all applications. All decisions made by the Scholarship Committee are final.

9. Is there a quota for how many students are selected from each school?
There is no quota. All applications are reviewed with the same criteria, regardless of the school or program where the student is enrolled.

10. Awards and amounts
a. How many awards are given out every year?
There are 15 awards given each year.

b. How much money does an award recipient receive?
The amount per award varies. It is determined by, and dependent upon, the annual budget of the Vesalius Trust. Award amounts are not determined by the AMI Scholarship Committee.

The awards amounts are not based on the project budget of the student application. There are three monetary levels of award based on the final ranking of the applications. The top ranked applicant receives the Alan Cole Award, the next 4 applicants are named Vesalian Scholars, and the next 10 applicants receive Vesalius Trust Research Grants.

c. What is the Inez Demonet scholarship?
The Inez Demonet is a scholarship awarded by the Trust. This scholarship has different eligibility criteria from the research grants and has a separate application process. Information on the Inez Demonet scholarship can be found at http://ami.org/medical-illustration/enter-the-profession/education/scholarships.