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Inaugural STEM scholarship to Perth teenager

A gap year working in Biotechnology and Life Sciences awaits Perth Mod Year 12 student

An internationally recognised medical technology company in Perth has designed an innovative scholarship for a school leaver interested in gaining experience in the biotechnology and life sciences industry before starting a science degree.

Proteomics International's inaugural Industrial Scholarship requires applicants to first, take a gap year after finishing school and then attend an eastern state's university.

"At Proteomics International, we want researchers who are not only great scientists but who are curious and adventurous so we designed a scholarship that promoted those qualities".

"We believe students who are keen to embrace the challenges and opportunities that come from taking a gap year and from then leaving home to study, bring broader perspectives, greater maturity and better inquiry to their scientific thinking", said Dr Richard Lipscombe, Proteomics International's Managing Director.

The winner, 18 year-old Imogen Sorby who's is just completing her Year 12 exams at Perth Modern School, thinks the design is fantastic.

As part of the scholarship, Imogen will have full-time work in 2018 in Proteomics' state of the art laboratory at the Harry Perkins Institute of Medical Research, \$5000 in financial support during her studies and employment during summer vacations.

"I'm so excited. Mum and I cried when I read the email saying I'd won the scholarship.

"My science teacher said this scholarship would be perfect for me, and that I should apply.

"A gap year and studying away from Perth were both in my plans. I love Biology and Philosophy. I've previously done the Perkins Profs program (at the Harry Perkins Institute of Medical Research) and it really directed me into research.

"I'd never been exposed to the processes of research before then and never really knew what actually went on and how broad research areas could be," she said.

The Harry Perkins Institute of Medical Research offers a range of programs for school students and members of the community in a world-class laboratory working with PhD students on real experiments.

Proteomics International is a medical technology company based at the Perkins in Nedlands.

"We're focused on the industrial scale study of the structure and function of proteins, which, in the last few years, have become the drug class of choice for the pharmaceutical industry because of their intimate role in biological systems".

“One way to think about the impact of proteins is to think of a caterpillar and the butterfly it becomes. They have identical DNA but are entirely different because of their proteins. Understanding proteins enables us to better understand our responses to diseases,” he said.

Perth Modern School is delighted for Imogen.

“She is perfect for this scholarship which provides such a range of personal and professional opportunities. The concept will extend any student who is serious about pursuing a career in Science. I will certainly be encouraging future students to apply for the scholarship in the years to come”, said Head of Science at Perth Modern School, Anthony Meczes.

Imogen has applied to the University of New South Wales and to the University of Sydney to study science in 2019.

The Scholarship is being awarded today at 2pm at the Harry Perkins Institute of Medical Research.

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About the Harry Perkins Institute of Medical Research

www.perkins.org.au

The Harry Perkins Institute of Medical Research is Western Australia’s premier adult medical research institute. We focus on the major diseases that affect our community: cancer; cardiovascular disease and diabetes. Our mission is to conduct innovative research that translates into lasting health benefits.

About Proteomics International Laboratories (PILL)

www.proteomicsinternational.com

Proteomics International is a wholly owned subsidiary and trading name of PILL (ASX: PIQ), a medical technology company focused on proteomics – the industrial scale study of the structure and function of proteins. PILL is recognised as a global leader in the field of proteomics. It received the world’s first ISO 17025 laboratory accreditation for proteomics services, and operates from state-of-the art facilities located on the QEII Medical Campus in Perth, Western Australia. The Company’s business model uses its proprietary technology platform across three integrated areas of diagnostics, drug discovery and analytical services.

The Proteomics International Industrial Scholarship was inaugurated in memory of Dr Bill Parker, the company's co-founder, and will run annually.