CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FIRST RECIPIENTS OF THE W2IRED WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION SCHOLARSHIPS

The Westmead Women’s Institute of Research and Data collaboration, W2IRED, is proud to announce the recipients of the 2018-2019 World Health Organisation (WHO) Scholarship awards. This is the first time the research institute has been able to offer these highly contested scholarships.

The awardees will each spend a minimum of two months at the United Nations headquarters in Geneva where they will learn aspects of data collection and policy structuring techniques for use in developing countries. They aim to improve maternal and child health in developing regions of the world. Their studies will be supervised by renowned obstetrician and public health expert Dr Maurice Bucagu.

In response to the overwhelming number of candidates applying for the residency when it was announced in 2018, funds were made available to create a second position. W2IRED, in conjunction with generous donations from The Way In Network and the Australian Chinese Medical Association (ACMA), has now secured funding for two scholarships for the next three years. Our congratulations are extended to:

**Ms Meleseini Tai-Roche**  
Third year medical student  
Notre Dame University School of Medicine  
Sydney NSW

Ms Meleseini Tai-Roche was equally excited about receiving the scholarship. Ms Tai-Roche worked as a Clinical Midwifery Consultant before embarking on her studies in medicine and surgery. While working as a midwife, she spent considerable time in remote regions of Australia and was an active participant in the 2013 House of Representatives Standing Committee on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs.

At the award presentation, WIRED’s founder Associate Professor Seng Chua commented ‘W2IRED will continue to create opportunities and develop ideas in research and education which will give our emerging generation of medical professionals a global perspective on Women’s Health. This can only be done through collaboration of both the public hospital system and private philanthropies.’

We wish both recipients of this year’s award the very best and look forward to hearing from them about their work in Geneva.

**Dr Anne O’Connor**  
Registrar in Obstetrics and Gynaecology  
Royal Hospital for Women, Randwick, NSW

Dr O’Connor was delighted on receiving the award saying, ‘This scholarship will allow me to gain insights into development of public health policies in maternity care and will pave the way for my PhD in public health during my advanced training in O&G’. Dr O’Connor will be taking three months leave from her current O&G training schedule to pursue this residency scholarship.