

Winner 2022 ANZSCDB Emerging Leader Award



Associate Professor Kelly Smith

University of Melbourne

We congratulate Associate Professor Smith as the 2022 ANZSCDB Emerging Leader Award recipient. Kelly has established a strong research program in the genetic regulation of heart development. Kelly's research uses large-scale forward genetics in zebrafish to identify and characterise novel regulators of cardiac development, disease, and regeneration. This research program has led to the discovery of several novel regulators of heart development, including identification of an extracellular matrix component required for correct development of the cardiac valves, and another gene of unknown function required for normal cardiac rhythm. Kelly is established as a leading researcher in the competitive field of cardiac development, securing substantial funding from the NHMRC in Project and Ideas grants and producing several high impact publications in leading international journals. We are extremely pleased to award this prize to Kelly to recognise ongoing contributions to our Society and the wider scientific community.