Queensland’s best young scientists will be recognised at the state ceremony of the prestigious Young Tall Poppy Science Awards. (Tuesday, 25 November).

The awards are run by the Australian Institute of Policy and Science (AIPS) to honour up-and-coming scientists who combine world-class research with a passionate commitment to communicating science.

Five emerging QLD scientists have been chosen from disciplines spanning Viruses, Sustainability and chronic disease.

AIPS General Manager Camille Thomson said the awards, which are held state-by-state, celebrate the country’s best and brightest young achievers across the sciences.

“Many Young Tall Poppies go on to achieve even greater things and to become inspiring leaders in their field,” she said. “They also become role models by working with the education and community sectors to encourage greater engagement in science.”

As part of the Young Tall Poppy campaign, award winners will spend a year sharing their knowledge with school students, teachers and the broader community through workshops, seminars and public lectures.

Young Tall Poppies are nominated by their peers and are early career researchers aged 35 or under. Selection is based on research achievement and leadership potential. More than 300 young scientists have been honoured nationally since the award was established in 2000.

Media are invited to the award presentation at the Queensland University of Technology

**Event details:**
Date: Tuesday, 25 November 2014
Venue: Queensland University of Technology.
Time: 6.00pm

**Photo/ vision/ interview opportunities:**
• Young Tall Poppy Award recipients
• Camille Thomson - AIPS General Manager

The AIPS is an independent, not-for-profit organisation that works to promote excellence in research and innovation, increase public engagement in science and inform and influence policymaking.

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For media enquiries and further background on winners, please contact:
Camille Thomson, AIPS General Manager, M. 0413 694 641 or E. info@aips.net.au
2014 QUEENSLAND TALL POPPY AWARD WINNERS

DR CLAUDIA VICKERS
University of Queensland

Dr Claudia Vickers is a synthetic biologist with a focus on metabolic engineering in microbes. She is particularly interested in using biology to replace current industrial practices with sustainable, environmentally friendly approaches. Her research could see wide commercial application in pharmaceuticals, anti-malarials and anti cancer drugs, pesticides and biofuels.

DR LARA HERRERO
Griffith University

Viruses in our bodies survive by hijacking healthy cells. Lara is developing ways to either stop such virus transmission or to treat viral inflammatory diseases. Her research has discovered a potential new treatment strategy for viral arthritis and has led to among the first primary cell-culture models for studying virus-induced arthritis.

DR PIP COHEN
James Cook University

Dr Pip Cohen’s research addresses the urgent need to improve environmental sustainability and food security in developing countries, particularly via small-scales fisheries. Her work examines fisheries as linked social-ecological systems using interdisciplinary research. She has built collaborations with economists, ecologists and anthropologists to produce a framework to guide integrated conservation policies.

DR SUE-ANN WATSON
James Cook University

Dr Sue-Ann Watson investigates the effects of rising carbon dioxide on ocean animals. Marine invertebrates are essential for ecosystem function and provide significant goods and services to human societies. Her work has recently shown that ocean acidification not only harms invertebrate shell production but also impairs marine invertebrate behaviour including essential predator-escape responses. These altered species interactions due to rising CO₂ could have far reaching implications for marine food webs.

DR VINCENT DALBO
Central Queensland University

Dr Vincent Dalbo looks at the healthy aging and disease prevention. Vincent’s work seeks to discover the best resistance training methods for older adults to maintain the ability to perform everyday tasks. His research also encompasses initiatives to slow the progression of chronic kidney disease by utilising exercise to minimise inflammation and oxidative damage that accompany the disease.