



PhD candidate earns coveted scholarship

CHURCHLANDS PhD student Marie Rye has won the 2011 Dr Louisa Alessandri Memorial Fund scholarship for her research into human genetics.

Miss Rye is studying the second year of her PhD at the Telethon Institute for Child Health Research in Subiaco and is researching the genetics of otitis media (middle ear infections), which is widely prevalent in WA children.

The scholarship, named after inspirational Telethon Institute for Child Health Research colleague Louisa Alessandri (1963 –

1997), was established to help a WA student with a disability.

Miss Rye, who is profoundly deaf, said she would use her scholarship money to attend a course in human genome analysis offered by the Wellcome Trust in the UK.

This course would provide experience in the use of sophisticated analysis in multi-factorial diseases that identify genes associated with otitis media.

Miss Rye said she chose this field of study because of its relationship with deafness.

While she is profoundly deaf

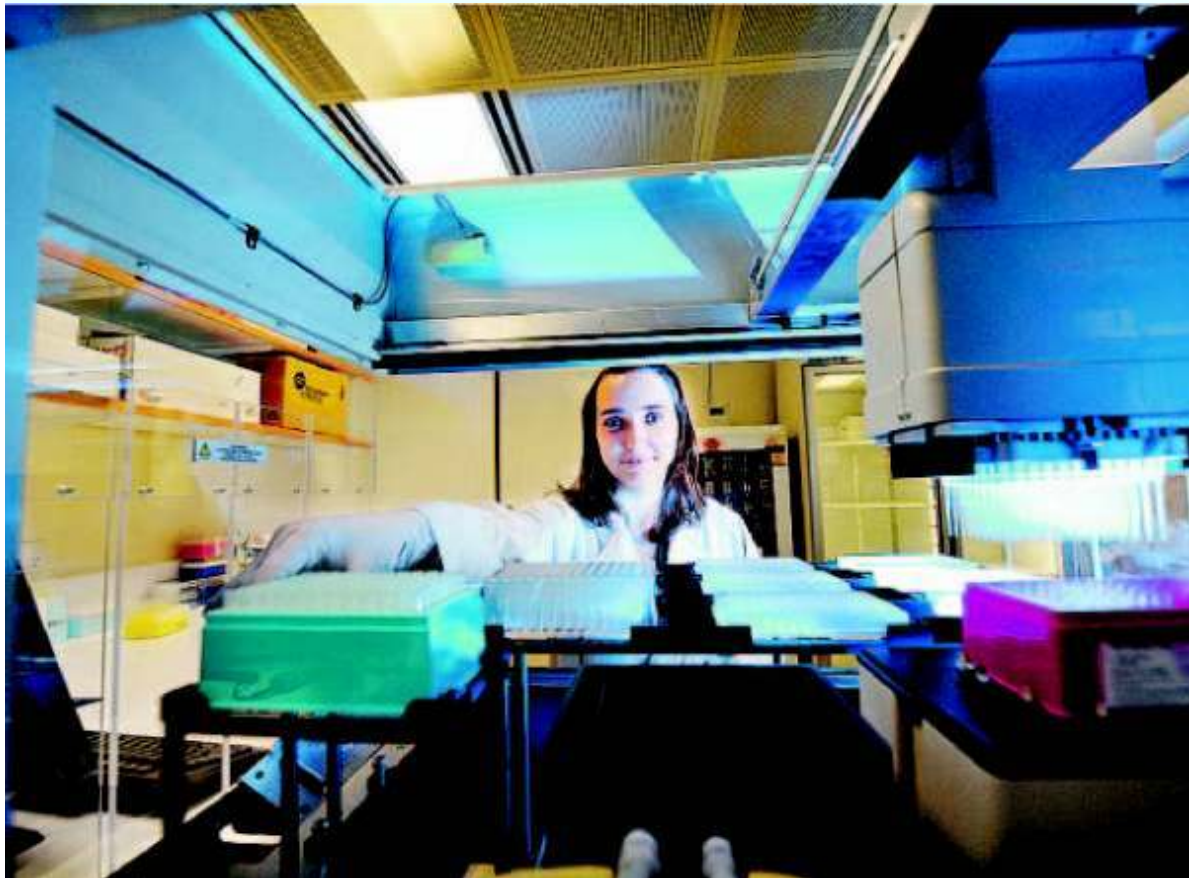
in both ears, she communicates orally and by Auslan and relies heavily on lip reading and repetition.

Miss Rye has an impressive academic record and has written a number of papers that were published in scientific journals.

In addition to her scientific studies, she is a passionate advocate for the hearing-impaired.

Miss Rye has been involved in workshops and groups to improve the lives of deaf people and is treasurer of the Deaf Netball WA Association, an association she helped to establish.

Adriana Tsoveas



Marie Rye, from Churchlands, has been awarded the 2011 Dr Louisa Alessandri Memorial Fund scholarship. Picture: Will Russell

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