What is the EMCR Forum?

The Australian Academy of Science Early- and Mid-Career Researcher Forum (the EMCR Forum) is the national voice of Australia’s emerging STEM researchers. It champions improvement in the national research environment for EMCRs through advocacy. If you identify as an EMCR, then we represent you.

Who can join the EMCR Forum?

All researchers in STEM who self-identify as an early or mid-career researcher (typically up to 15 years post-PhD, excluding interruptions) irrespective of their position or sector.

How do I become a member of the EMCR Forum?

Simply jump on the website and sign up to become a member. There is no selection process or restriction on membership. We encourage each and every EMCR to sign up because it’s a great way to increase your engagement, stay informed and have a say. Plus, the larger, more diverse and more representative the EMCR Forum membership is, the louder and more effective the voice of the EMCR Forum.

What are the benefits of being a member of the EMCR Forum?

Learn. Members are able to attend the Science Pathways conference for professional development of EMCRs, which is held every 18 months. Members are also eligible to apply for a large number of travel awards to attend the conference worth over $1,000 each.

Make a difference. Members who have an idea for an activity that benefits EMCRs, can propose them for funding under the Theo Murphy Initiative, and work with the Australian Academy of Science staff to turn them into reality.

Be informed. Members will receive our quarterly newsletter EMCR Pathways as well as our fortnightly email update including awards, opportunities and other news and events for EMCRs.

Share the word. Members are also able to contribute to or advertise events in the newsletter and email updates.

Have your say! Members can contribute to regular submissions that the EMCR Forum makes to the Australian Government and other organisations in the sector to ensure that we realise the brightest future for EMCRs.

How can I find out what the EMCR Forum is doing?

Sign up as a member and you will receive a fortnightly email of updates, news and opportunities, plus a quarterly newsletter reporting on our activities and other relevant EMCR activities across Australia.

Follow us on Twitter @EMCRForum

Visit the website where you can read and download a range of resources including:

- A how-to guide to run your own workshop on fostering kindness in science
- Kickstarting collaboration: a selection of resources and case studies aimed at promoting collaboration and understanding researchers in universities, industry or business and in other sectors where research happens.
- Past submissions the EMCR Forum have made to represent EMCRs
- Profiles of Australian EMCRs
- Information about the Australian Postdoctoral Reference survey
- Best practice guides for gender equity
What is the EMCR Forum Executive?

The Executive is a small group of volunteers who work closely with the staff of the Australian Academy of Science to amplify the voice of Australia's EMCRs and set the strategic direction of EMCR Forum activities. They meet with decision makers in government and various agencies to ensure the views of EMCRs are considered when decisions are being made. They also liaise with other national organisations to facilitate initiatives to support the careers of ECMRs and positively contribute to the Australian science sector. The Executive also provides a direct link between the EMCR Forum and the Council of the Australian Academy of Science and advises them on issues relating to EMCRs. It is an inclusive group aiming to be as diverse and equitable as it possibly can.

How can I join the EMCR Forum Executive?

You can apply through a selection process which opens in the last quarter of every year. Watch out for a call for expressions of interest on Twitter, and via our fortnightly e-updates. We welcome and value diverse experiences and perspectives, and actively encourage all interested parties, particularly those from traditionally underrepresented groups in STEM, to apply.

Who is the Representative Network?

The Representative Network is made up of early- and mid-career researchers nominated to represent their employer and act as a link between local EMCRs and EMCR activities, and national events and initiatives driven by the EMCR Forum Executive. The Representative Network was established with universities beginning in 2017, with plans to roll this out to all institutions and employers of EMCRs (publicly funded research organisations, government and industry).

The main aim of the Representative Network is to represent and communicate the interests of EMCRs at each organisation to the EMCR Forum Executive. In addition, the Representative Network functions to share information from the Executive and the Australian Academy of Science with EMCRs at organisations around Australia. The Representative Network strengthens the EMCR Forum’s ability to reach and equitably represent all of Australia’s EMCRs.

We invite you to visit the website to check who your local Representative Network members are. If your workplace isn’t on the list of the Representative Network, contact us and let’s work together to change that.