Rotary District 9675/85 Vocational Excellence Awards 2020

**Dr Minal Menezes**

Dr Minal Menezes is a Senior Research Officer in the Department of Anesthesia at the Children’s Hospital Westmead and is a Senior Clinical Lecturer at the University of Sydney. In her spare time she heads research at the Children’s Hospital Westmead into Phenylketonuria or PKU, a rare birth defect disease that left untreated can lead to brain damage , intellectual disabilities and behavioural symptoms or seizures.

Dr Menezes has a PhD from University of Sydney and she specialized in the genetics of Mitochondrial Disorders (a rare inborn error of metabolism). She received the Peter Bancroft Prize University Medal awarded by Sydney Medical School for her outstanding thesis. She was the recipient of the Award for Excellence in Mitochondrial Research by the Australian Mitochondrial Disease Foundation and New Investigator Award from the Human Genetics Society of Australasia.

Her research focuses on trialling novel treatments for PKU and she received the Early Career Kick Start Grant from the University of Sydney for her work on PKU. Dr Menezes recently presented her research at the European Society of PKU conference in Turkey this November.

Dr Menezes has many peer reviewed articles published in high impact journals and has represented the Children’s Hospital Westmead clinical school at various international conferences. She is regarded by her peers as a very talented research scientist and her work focus on PKU will lead to exciting translational therapeutic developments.

Rotary Districts 9675 and 9685 are honoured to recognise Dr Minal Menezes with a 2020 District Vocational Excellence Award.