Charmaine Tam will attend a prestigious scientific conference in Germany.

Olga Gerloff

GREYSTANES-based researcher Charmaine Tam has been selected from more than 20,000 applicants to attend a prestigious scientific conference in Germany.

She has secured a place at the 60th Interdisciplinary Meeting of Nobel Laureates, as a result of her research into children’s obesity at The Children’s Hospital at Westmead. Ms Tam, a researcher and PhD student from the Institute of Endocrinology and Diabetes, will travel to Lindau Germany next month.

“This will be an amazing opportunity to meet scientists who have achieved one of the highest honours in our field,” she said.

“I’m conducting the world’s largest study on how children’s fat cells change with age and weight gain.”

Ms Tam’s work could one day help to identify the onset of obesity in children. Her study focuses on genetic and cellular changes in fat tissue in growing children.

“I’ve been collecting abdominal fat tissue samples from over 150 children having elective surgery at the hospital,” Ms Tam said. She learnt techniques for analysing fat tissue in children after being awarded an NHMRC Travelling Scholarship. “This allowed me to spend six months at the Prof Karine Clement’s laboratory in Paris in 2009, which was a big learning curve,” Ms Tam said.

Being a local girl she attended Parramatta’s Fort Street High School, before undertaking a Bachelor of Science at The University of Sydney.

She started working at The Children’s Hospital at Westmead in 2004.

Following The Nobel Laureate meeting, Ms Tam will travel to the US to commence her two-year postdoctorate at the Pennington Biomedical Research Institute in Louisiana.