

The Royal College of Surgeons of England Medical Student Prize

GUIDANCE and REGULATIONS

Selection Process

1.1. The selection of the winner will be divided into three stages:

- Submission of abstract
- Short-listing based on abstracts (between 14 and 16 candidates will be shortlisted)
- Presentation

1.2. Shortlisting stage - Abstracts

1.2.1. Candidates must nominate themselves for entry by submitting an abstract on the specified topic to the judging panel. Candidates will then be short-listed.

1.2.2. Only abstracts that are submitted via email, in word format to the published email address will be accepted.

1.2.2.1. Submissions made in PDF format will not be accepted.

1.2.2.2. Submissions over the word count will not be accepted.

1.2.2.3. The deadline for submission is 4pm on the published date, submissions after 4pm will not be accepted

1.2.2.4. If your submission is rejected for any reason you may re-submit an amended entry, this must arrive before the 4pm deadline

1.2.3. Abstracts for the first stage must be no longer than 500 words.

1.2.3.1. The word limit does not include the published title/question or references

1.2.3.2. References should be presented as footnotes and endnotes

1.2.4. It would be preferred if abstracts were presented in Arial font size 11.

1.3. Presentation stage

1.3.1. Presentations must not exceed 5 minutes in length and will be timed. A bell will be sounded when the time is up and candidates must stop speaking. Candidates should be prepared to answer questions on their presentation. Questions will be asked after the 5 minutes and will not be timed.

1.3.2. The style and method of presentation will be left to the discretion of the candidate.

1.3.2.1. Provision will be made for audio visual support. If candidates wish to use audio visual aids, their presentation must be submitted to the Opportunities in Surgery office at least 3 days prior to the presentation. Opportunities in Surgery will confirm receipt of presentations within 1 working day of receipt of presentation. It is candidate's responsibility to ensure Opportunities in Surgery receives their presentation in a timely fashion.

1.3.2.2. Presentations must be submitted in advance. Due to time restraints on the day candidates are not able to use their own lap-tops in the lecture theatre.

Judges and Judging Criteria

- 2.1. There will be a panel of judges, to be nominated by the OiS committee, from RCS council and or the OiS committee and may also include Professor Ellis
- 2.2. At all stages, the panel will be looking for both clinical and general knowledge of surgery
- 2.3. At all stages candidates should ensure that they consider the principles of equality and diversity in both their writing and presentation.
- 2.4. **Short-listing stage**
 - 2.4.1. At the short-listing stage the judges will be looking for abstracts that demonstrate the following attributes:
 - Evidence of a thorough understanding of the subject area
 - A clear, concise and well presented answer to the question posed by the abstract topic

Specifically, judges will mark abstracts against the following criteria:

 - Style of writing
 - Content / understanding
 - Originality
- 2.5. No abstract that exceeds the word limit or is submitted after the deadline will be considered.
- 2.6. It is the candidate's responsibility to ensure that the abstract has been received by the Opportunities in Surgery Office. Opportunities in Surgery will email to confirm receipt of applications within two working days of the submission.
- 2.7. The OiS chair will have the final decision on the shortlist and reserves the right to not accept entries to the competition.
- 2.8. **Presentation Stage**
 - 2.8.1. At the presentation stage, candidates will be judged on both presentation skills and presentation content. The judges will be looking for the following criteria:
 - Presentation (comprehensive communication of the presentation content within the agreed time period)
 - Content / understanding (evidence of a thorough understanding of the subject area)
 - Originality
 - Discussion skills (an ability to answer questions on the subject and approach the subject from different angles)

The Prize

- 3.1. The winner of the first prize will be awarded £500
- 3.2. The surgical society at the University of the Winners of 1st, 2nd and 3rd place will be awarded £100 each.
- 3.3. The winners of 1st, 2nd and 3rd place will be presented with certificates.
- 3.4. An article on the prize will be featured in The Bulletin of the Royal College of Surgeons of England