

J.H. MacDermot Prize for Excellence in Medical Journalism

Terms of Reference

The J.H. MacDermot Prize for Excellence in Medical Journalism (“the MacDermot Prize”) recognizes a BC medical student’s significant achievement in medical writing. The prize is a \$1000 cash award, as well as recognition in the *British Columbia Medical Journal*. The prize honors Dr John Henry MacDermot (1883–1969), who became the editor of the *Vancouver Medical Bulletin* at its formation in 1924, remaining at the helm until 1959, when it became the *BC Medical Journal*. He was editor of the *BCM J* until he retired in 1967. Dr MacDermot was also past president of both the Vancouver Medical Association and the BC Medical Association.

Purpose

The MacDermot Prize recognizes the best article on any medicine-related topic submitted to the *BCM J* by a medical student in British Columbia. By providing the MacDermot Prize, the *BC Medical Journal* aims to foster and encourage excellence in medical writing.

Criteria and eligibility

Entries are selected from all medical student articles published in the *BCM J* in a publishing year—January issue to December issue. The dates of submission and acceptance are not relevant to selection.

Articles are judged against the following criteria:

- Was it submitted and presented in a professional manner, according to the *BCM J* Guidelines for Authors?
- Is it original?
- Is it significant?
- Is the writing clear and persuasive?

Nominees must:

- Have published the article in the *BCM J*.
- Be (or have been) a medical student at the University of British Columbia at the time the article is written and submitted.
- Be the lead author (in the case of an article written with physicians). “Lead author” is defined as the person having ultimate authority over the final version of the article.

Selection committee and process

The selection committee is composed of the Editorial Board of the *BC Medical Journal*. All medical student articles published in the *BCM J* are eligible; there is no need to apply or be nominated. The Editorial Board is under no obligation to make the award annually. If the winning article is written by more than one medical student, the prize will be divided equally among the student authors.

The award is presented by the Editor of the *BCM J* at a meeting of the Editorial Board if the winner is able to attend; if this is not possible, the winner may receive his or her award by mail or in person at a later date.

Enquires to journal@bcma.bc.ca or 604 638-2815.