

STUDENT ESSAY COMPETITION 2017

Rules and Regulations

1. The competition is aimed at students in the medical and biological sciences (spanning courses such as medicine, nursing, pharmacy, biology, genetics, biomedical science, pharmacology etc.).
2. Entrants may be at undergraduate or masters level, or medical students undergoing clinical training. Entries will not be accepted from PhD students.
3. Entries may be submitted by those studying other courses, but it is recommended that such entries focus on a personal experience with a rare genetic condition.
4. The competition is open to students worldwide, but must be written in English.
5. The essay must be 1,500 words or less. Essays over this limit will be disqualified. This word limit does not include the title, appendices or reference lists.
6. Authors are encouraged to give their essay its own unique title, but should clearly indicate the question they are answering both on the entry form and essay submission.
7. Only single authors will be accepted and the essay must not be plagiarised. Appropriate references must be provided.
8. Authors may seek advice or guidance from an academic or clinical mentor, but this mentor must be acknowledged on the entry form.
9. The essay must be word-processed and presented using a standard style (i.e. Times New Roman, size 12, line spacing 1.5).
10. The essay should be written in an engaging style with all rare disease stakeholders, including patients, clinicians, scientists, and pharmaceutical representatives, in mind.
11. A short summary of the essay, no more than 250 words in length, should be written on the entry form. This is not included in the usual word limit.
12. Entries must be emailed to Dr Rick Thompson (rick@findacure.org.uk) and accompanied by a completed entry form. The entrant's name must not be present anywhere on the essay.
13. Entries must be submitted by 9:00am UK time on Monday 13th November. Late entries will not be accepted and no allowance will be made for e-mail failures. We will notify you upon receipt of your essay.
14. The subject of the e-mail must be in the style of 'last name, first name – Findacure Essay Competition'.
15. Students may enter up to one essay for each question, but each essay will require its own completed entry form.

16. Authors who entered essays in previous years may submit new essays to the competition. Resubmissions will not be accepted.
17. Authors are encouraged to include patient stories, experiences, and case studies. Patient approval should be sought for this first.
18. An expert panel of scientists, clinicians and patient groups drawn from Findacure's extensive rare disease network will judge the essays and the winners should be notified by 21st December.
19. The winner from each question will receive a £100 cash prize and will be invited to attend Findacure's Conference on 27th February 2018. Findacure will pay travel expenses up to £50 within the UK. Additional funding will be available for winners based outside the UK, with the amount to be agreed in discussion with Findacure.
20. The overall winner will receive an additional £100 as well as winning the opportunity to have their article published, free of charge, in the Orphanet Journal of Rare Diseases.
21. Publication in the Orphanet Journal of Rare Diseases is subject to peer review, and as such, the winning essay may require some modification before publication.
22. The winning essays may be published on the Findacure website. Alterations may be made to these in order to make them suitable for publishing. Credit will be given to the authors.
23. Other winning essays, or highly ranked essays, will be considered for publication as blogs on the BMC Biology "On Biology" or "On Medicine" blogs. Such publication is at the discretion of the BMC Biology team, and all selected authors will be consulted prior to publication.
24. Winning authors may be invited to speak at the Students for Rare Diseases annual conference 2018.
25. Findacure reserves the right to give no prize should no submitted essays reach the expected standard.