



J.H. MacDermot Writing Awards Terms of Reference

Purpose

The J.H. MacDermot Writing Awards are made up of the J.H. MacDermot Prize for Excellence in Medical Journalism and the J.H. MacDermot Prize for Excellence in Blog Writing. The awards recognize the best articles, essays, and blog posts written by medical students in British Columbia and published by the *BC Medical Journal*. By providing the J.H. MacDermot Writing Awards, the *BCM J* aims to foster and encourage excellence in medical writing.

The awards honor 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 *BCM J*. Dr MacDermot was editor of the *BCM J* until he retired in 1967, and was also past president of the Vancouver Medical Association and the then–BC Medical Association.

J.H. MacDermot Prize for Excellence in Medical Journalism	J.H. MacDermot Prize for Excellence in Blog Writing
<p>The prize recognizes a BC medical student’s significant achievement in medical writing (article or essay).</p> <p>The prize is a \$1000 cash award, as well as recognition in the <i>BCM J</i>.</p> <p>The winner is selected from all eligible BC medical student articles and essays published in the <i>BCM J</i> in a publishing year (January issue to December issue).</p> <p>Eligibility</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The lead author* (in the case of an article or essay written with physician co-authors) must have been a medical student at the University of British Columbia at the time the article was written and submitted. <p>Judging criteria</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Was the article or essay submitted and presented in a professional manner, according to the <i>BCM J</i> Guidelines for Authors? • Is it original? • Is it significant? • Is the writing clear and persuasive? 	<p>The prize recognizes a BC medical student’s significant achievement in medical writing for the blog format.</p> <p>The prize is a \$250 cash award, as well as recognition in the <i>BCM J</i>.</p> <p>The winner is selected from all eligible BC medical student blog posts published on bcmj.org. The award may be offered twice in a publishing year (January to December): once for posts published from January to June, and once for posts published from July to December.</p> <p>Eligibility</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The lead author* (in the case of a post written with physician co-authors) must have been a medical student at the University of British Columbia at the time the post was written and submitted. <p>Judging criteria</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the blog post a short, timely piece on a health-related subject? • Does it offer an opinion on the issues discussed? • Is it conversational, personable, and controversial? • Does it provide links to related and source content and photos if possible?

* The lead author is the person who has ultimate authority over the final version of the article, essay, or blog post.

Selection committee and process

The selection committee is composed of the Editorial Board of the *BCM J*. All eligible medical student articles and essays published in the *BCM J* and blog posts published on bcmj.org will be considered. There is no need to apply or be nominated.

If a winning article, essay, or blog post is written by more than one BC 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. The Editorial Board is under no obligation to offer either award in any given year.

For more information, e-mail journal@doctorsofbc.ca or call 604 638-2815.