



Canadian Organization of Undergraduate Psychiatric Educators

2020 COUPE Best Paper Contest for Medical Students

PURPOSE:

- The **COUPE “Best Paper Award for Medical Students”** is designed to recognize a student in undergraduate medical training who demonstrates an enhanced level of understanding and interest in mental health.
- Furthermore, this prize is intended to reward a student who takes the time and effort (during an extremely busy year!) to investigate a specific issue relevant to mental health, either within psychiatry or another area of medicine.
- Finally, this prize is intended to reward the student who best demonstrates an advanced level of scholarship expected at the senior stages of undergraduate medical education.

PROCESS:

The Undergraduate Education Committee of each Medical School will advertise the competition each year.

ELIGIBILITY:

- All full-time undergraduate students enrolled in the Doctor of Medicine Program at any of the 17 medical schools across Canada.
- The author of the paper should be an “individual student”, not a group.
- Submissions cannot have been previously published or be currently under consideration for publication.

REQUIREMENTS:

- The submission will be an academic discussion of ANY topic within the realm of mental health OR another area of medicine relating to mental health (i.e. post-MI depression, postpartum psychosis, etc...).
- The topic chosen does NOT have to be drawn from a direct experience. It can address ANY AREA WITHIN MEDICINE, AS LONG AS IT RELATES TO MENTAL HEALTH!
- The format is broad so that submissions can be in any one of a variety of forms (i.e. essay, review article, original research, argument etc.)
- All references will be appropriately documented. All pages will be numbered.
- Submissions will not exceed **2000 words** in length.

- Tables/Figures (max. 3 in total) will be allowed in addition to the 2000 word limit.
- A Cover Page will be provided with Title, Author's Name, Word Count (without figures), Number of Pages, Date of Submission, E-mail Address, Mailing Address and Telephone Number.

DEADLINE:

Essays will be **submitted via e-mail to** the chair of the Psychiatry Undergraduate Education Committee **Dr. Cheryl Murphy** at murphyc@dal.ca. Submissions will not be accepted after **Midnight, Friday, March 27, 2020**. (Paper submissions will not be accepted)

EVALUATION:

The Psychiatry Undergraduate Education Committee from each school will be responsible for assessing the submissions and will forward the best two **(2)** papers to the COUPE Executive for adjudication by **April 3, 2020**.

- Submissions will be evaluated along 5 dimensions:
 1. **Content**
 2. **Originality**
 3. **Thoroughness of Literature Review**
 4. **Style of Writing**
 5. **Organization**
- Each dimension will be worth 10 points, for a cumulative mark out of 50 points.
- Submissions will NOT be returned after marking.

PRIZE:

The author of the winning submission will be notified by e-mail and acknowledged in the Canadian Journal of Psychiatry. As well, an announcement will be made at the CPA annual meeting in the fall.

The winner will receive \$250.00, travel expenses paid to attend the fall CPA meeting, (up to a value of \$750.00) as well as an engraved plaque from COUPE.