



History of Medicine Essay Award Application Form

Essay contest topic: Any topic that piques the student's curiosity is fair game for historical research and may be eye-opening and inspiring to others. Students are encouraged to consider the history behind topics of current interest, such as: the role of race in health, health care, and training of health care providers; discrimination of any kind; stigma of any kind.

Description: Understanding historical context is an important aspect of medical education. In 2007, the Massachusetts Medical Society (MMS) established the Medical Student Essay Award Contest to honor a student for the best research essay related to the history of medicine or public health since the initiation of the MMS in 1781.

We ask essay authors to focus on the identified topic and on the role of MMS, district medical societies, national medical associations, medical schools, academic medical centers, and other components of what might be considered the “medical establishment,” with both positive and negative impact.

Authors of essays are strongly encouraged to use primary sources to the extent that they are available under restrictions in place for the coronavirus pandemic. Students are invited (but not required) to consult, either in person or by phone, with members of the Committee on History to discuss the formulation of their research question, as well as sources that might be investigated. Potential online sources include the [Annual Orations of the MMS](#), the content of the *New England Journal of Medicine* and its precursors, historical archives, and association proceedings.

The essay should be original, tightly argued, and well-referenced, and it will be judged on scholarship, originality, and clarity of expression. Photographs and illustrations may be included with the essay. All submissions will be checked for use of AI and plagiarism.

Eligibility: The award is available to a medical student (“You” or “Your”) who is a member of the Massachusetts Medical Society (the “Society”), provided that You are not a member of the Committee on History.

Entry Requirements: The essay must not exceed 3,000 words (not including citations or footnotes) and may be [submitted by e-mail](#) or printed copy. A one-paragraph abstract is due by **November 24, 2024**, and the final essay is due by **January 19, 2025** to Leon Barzin, Massachusetts Medical Society, 860 Winter Street, Waltham, MA 02451, email: lbarzin@mms.org. A copy of this form must be signed by You and provided to the Society by the submission deadline.

The Award: The Society will select the best essay on the basis of factors including scholarship, originality, and clarity of expression. If Your essay is selected, You will receive an award of \$1,000.

The Society reserves the right, in its sole discretion, not to issue any award.

Other Conditions: If You receive the award, (1) You agree that the Society may edit Your essay and reproduce, distribute and/or display it at the Society's website or elsewhere in electronic or other media, and (2) you must submit Your photograph and You agree that the Society may identify You by photograph, name, medical school, and city in connection with Your essay and the award program.

Agreed to:

Your Signature

Date

Your name (printed or typed):

Address:

Telephone:

E-mail: