

The BSANZ Medical Student Reflective Essay Competition 2019

The Board of the Balint Society of Australia and New Zealand (BSANZ) now invites medical students in Australia and New Zealand to submit an essay to the BSANZ Essay Competition for 2019.

This reflective essay should describe a student-patient relationship, an experience, or experiences, from within the student's medical studies and include critical reflection on professional, clinical or personal interactions with patients. Material already used for course work can be re-worked for submission, but previously published work for medical theses or diplomas should not be submitted. Each essay should include:

Description: A detailed presentation of a personal experience of a student-patient interaction or relationship.

Reflection: Review or reflection on how the student experienced this relationship, either individually or as part of the medical team. Analysis should include the student's own perception of the situation, the challenges faced and how he or she responded.

Implications or 'critical reflection': Discussion about ways in which the student's own approach might change in the future, and/or also possible ways in which medical training might enhance the capacity of students to engage thoughtfully and compassionately in patient care.

Submissions are to be sent by email to: balintsecretary@gmail.com and must be received by midnight AEST, Wednesday 31 May, 2019.

Prizes

- The Lawrence Gilbert Memorial Prizes of A\$500 will be awarded to the two top essays.
- The top 2-3 essays will be submitted to the Journal of the Balint Society UK for possible publication (see <http://www.balint.co.uk>).
- Winners or runner-ups may be offered subsidised attendance at BSANZ annual workshops in Australia or NZ.

For further information, including winning essays from 2015 and 2017, see:

<https://www.balintaustralianewzealand.org/bsanz-writing-prize/>

Helpful tips

- Include a short and accurate title that reflects the content of the essay.
- Essays must be in English, between 1000 and 2000 words.
- Please use 12-point font, 1.5 spacing, Word documents only, not PDF.
- The essay should focus on the student-patient relationship rather than on ethical analysis.
- Explain all abbreviations or acronyms. Use pseudonyms rather than patients' initials.
- Previously submitted course work must be carefully reworked to de-identify the course, your university and the city.

Students entering the competition will also receive the regular BSANZ email newsletter about the activities of the Society. There is an unsubscribe option at the bottom of every email to opt off at any time.

Competition organisers: Associate Professor Hamish Wilson, University of Otago, Dunedin, NZ, and Alexa Gilbert-Obrart from Sydney, Australia.

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