

New Zealand Microbiological Society

Student Oral Presentation Competition

AIM

The aim of this competition is to provide student members of the New Zealand Microbiological Society (NZMS) an opportunity to present their work to a scientific audience at the NZMS Annual Conference and compete for a prize that will allow them to travel to the USA and attend the next American Society for Microbiology (ASM) conference following the NZMS Annual Conference.

JUDGES

The judging process will normally be co-ordinated by the NZMS Vice President (Chief Judge), whose decision will be final. They will select at least four NZMS members to judge the competing papers at the Annual Conference. The judges will use the judging criteria below to assess the presentations. The Chief Judge will collate the results and will discuss the final outcome with the group of judges before announcing the winner. The winner will be announced at the conclusion of the conference. Co-ordination of the student entrants will normally be undertaken by the NZMS Annual Conference convener who is expected to liaise closely with the NZMS Vice President regarding entrants, presentation schedules, etc.

JUDGING CRITERIA

10 marks will be allocated for each of the following 5 categories providing a final maximum score of 50.

Slide layout

- Legible - not over-crowded
- Good use of pictures and graphs in preference to text
- Use of flow diagrams to detail methods, if appropriate
- Clear structure
- Clear font
- Reasonable number of slides (not too many)
- Reasonable number of lines of text /bullet points per slide
- Grammar and spelling correct

Scientific Content

- Adequate background
- Clear methods and experimental design
- Appropriate presentation of data (eg use of graphs)
- Statistically sound
- Good interpretation of data
- Key points highlighted
- Sound conclusions based on data

Presentation style

- Logical flow and structure
- Confidence in presentation and clear communication
- Engaging the audience (eye contact, gestures, voice modulation)
- Pace and cadence

Questions/knowledge

- Able to handle questions with confidence
- Clear focussed answers
- Able to re-direct questions if required
- Able to talk around the core subject

Timing

- Aware of time
- Not racing to finish and missing slides to do so
- Within +/- 30s for 3 min presentation
- Within +/- 1 min for main presentation

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- Only New Zealand university-registered Honours, Masters or PhD students are eligible for this competition.
- Competition entrants must be NZMS student members and have been a member for the 6 months preceding the NZMS Annual Conference at which the competition is held.
- They must not have submitted their thesis for examination prior to the NZMS Annual Conference at which they are presenting their research.
- Students can only enter **either** the oral presentation competition **or** the poster presentation competition at any particular NZMS conference. If a student's abstract is submitted but not accepted for an oral presentation they can request to enter the poster presentation competition.
- Success of the award will also be conditional on ASM accepting the submitted Abstract for some form of presentation.
- Within 21 days of presenting their research at the ASM conference, the recipient shall present a 500-800 word written report of their trip to the NZMS Vice President.

PRIZE DETAILS

The ASM will provide complimentary registration for the student prize winner at the ASM conference in the year following the NZMS conference. The complimentary registration for the winner cannot be deferred for registration at a later ASM conference.

It is the responsibility of the student to ensure that they submit an abstract for the ASM conference before the abstract submission deadline. The NZMS will assist in this process to ensure that registration fees are waived. It is also the responsibility of the student to ensure that they have, or are readily able to obtain, the necessary visa requirements to enable entrance to the USA to attend the ASM conference.

The NZMS will fund the travel (normally international and internal flights, economy class only,) to the USA and accommodation (arranged in consultation with the NZMS) associated with attendance at the ASM conference. It will be the responsibility of the student to ensure that all necessary travel insurance is arranged prior to their departure to USA.

Note that the NZMS will offer this one prize only in the student competition and this will only be offered subject to NZMS funding being available.

Note that the winner will be responsible for arranging their travel and will be reimbursed on the presentation of a receipt to the NZMS treasurer.

PUBLICITY

The competition will be advertised on the NZMS web site and each NZMS conference web site. The closing date will be the final date for abstract submission for the NZMS Annual Conference meeting.

APPLICATION

Students will apply for entry to the competition by ticking the appropriate box on the NZMS Annual Conference Registration Form.

PRESENTATIONS

The student oral presentation competition final will normally consist of 15 min presentations (the length is dependent on the final programme of the conference) which will include 3 minutes allocated for questions. These talks will normally be presented in a dedicated Student Presentation session at the annual NZMS conference. There may be a preliminary competition at the conference where the same material is presented in 3 min in order to select the competitors for the competition final. The preliminary competition may immediately precede the opening of the conference.