**1. Eligibility**

1.1 The competition is open to all those **currently** in a UK Foundation Programme (F1, F2) at the time of submission.

1.2 Entries are invited on the essay “Does Direct Ophthalmoscopy have a role in the modern NHS?"

**2. Essay submission**

2.1 Candidates must nominate themselves for entry by submitting a short essay on the specified topic to the judging panel. Essays will be marked against the published criteria and the 3 essays with the highest average marks will be awarded 1st, 2nd and 3rd place.

2.2 Essays must be made to the following email address: imogen.armstrong@rcophth.ac.uk

2.3 Only essays that are submitted via email, in word format to the published email address will be accepted.

 2.3.1 Submissions made in PDF format will not be accepted.

 2.3.2 Submission over the word count will not be accepted.

2.4 The deadline for submission is **5.00pm Monday 10 October 2016**. Submissions after this time will not be accepted.

2.5 Essays must be up to **1500 words**.

 2.5.1 The word limit does not include the published title/questions of reference.

 2.5.2 References should be presented as footnotes and endnotes; references presented

 in alternative formats may be considered to be part of the limit.

2.6 It would be preferred if abstracts were presented in Calibri 12.

**3. Judges and judging criteria**

 3.1 There will be a panel of judges, to be nominated by the Education Committee.

3.2 At all stages the panel will be looking for both clinical and general knowledge of ophthalmology and original critical thinking.

3.3 At all stages, candidates should ensure that they consider the principles of equality and diversity in both their writing and presentation.

 3.3.1 The panel will be looking for evidence of thorough understanding of the subject area.

3.4 The panel will mark abstracts against the following criteria;

 Style of writing

Punctuation, spelling and grammar

 Content/understanding

 Originality

3.5 It is the candidate’s responsibility to ensure submission has been received by the College. The Education and Training Department will email to confirm receipt of applications within 5 working days of submission.

3.6 The judge’s decision is final.

**4. The Prize**

4.1 The winners of 2nd and 3rd place will be presented with certificates and the 1st prize will have free entry into the Royal College of Ophthalmologists Annual Congress 22-25 May 2017, Liverpool to present work as a poster and will be invited to attend the Admission Ceremony in September 2017.

4.2 The winners would be expected to provide the full text of their essay for publication on the College website.

4.3 No prize will be awarded if a sufficient standard is not reached.

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