



## RMBS Contest Rules

### ***Student Awards***

The judges for the written awards will be RMBS board members and non-members as appointed by the Editor in Chief of Biomedical Sciences Instrumentation to help review the paper submissions. The judges for the presentation and poster awards are any attendees of the conference.

#### **General awards:**

- Written Award: 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place
- Presentation Award: 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place
- Poster Award: 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place

#### **Special awards (one each):**

- President's Award
- Program Chair's Award
- Student Contest Chair's Award
- Anthony Sances Jr. Award of Merit

### ***Professional Awards***

The judges for these competitions are again any attendees of the conference

- **Best presentation**
- **Best poster**

Since every paper gets judged and scored before being accepted for publication in the Biomedical Sciences Instrumentation Journal, a **Best paper** award will be given to the highest scoring paper based on the aforementioned peer-review process.

## General Rules

1. To compete for ANY award, a FULL PAPER, an EXTENDED ABSTRACT, or a BRIEF ABSTRACT must be submitted and accepted by the Program Chair.
2. To be included in the Student Contest, the first author of the paper MUST have been a student when the research was done and at the time of the conference. Everybody else will be entered in the Professional Contest.
3. Inclusion in the Contest is automatic
4. To be eligible for the Student Contest additional information is required on the registration form: the program in which each of the student authors is enrolled (undergraduate, Master, or Doctoral) and the student's graduation date.
5. The Student Written Awards will be given to the first author of the selected papers, while the Presentation and Poster Awards will be given to the student presenting. If different than the first author, it is responsibility of the presenting student to give to the RMBS Contest Chair at the beginning of the conference the program in which the student is enrolled (undergraduate, Master, or Doctoral) and their graduation date, or they will be excluded from the contest.
6. It is not necessary for the students to be at the Awards Ceremony to be eligible for the award itself, but unless the student has a valid reason for not being present, **the students MUST be at the Awards Ceremony to receive the money associated with the award.** If a student is not present at the ceremony and has no valid reason, it will receive only the Award certificate, whereas the money will return to the Student Contest Fund. If the student has a valid reason for not being at the Awards Ceremony (e.g., prearranged travel plans, or incoming project deadlines and/or final exams), the attendance requirement is waived and the student would receive the money associated with the award. **The student MUST however notify in advance the Contest Chair of his or her impossibility to attend the Awards Ceremony to still be eligible for the money associated with the award.** The decision to accept or reject the student's valid reason will be the Contest Chair's.
7. The professionals will get only the Award Certificate; no money will be associated with these awards.
8. The written competition for both groups is part of the paper review process: all papers accepted for publication in Biomedical Sciences Instrumentation are reviewed by at least two individuals as part of the peer-review process and a dedicated form is used to provide a numerical score. The scores are normalized by reviewer, averaged across all reviewers and only at the final tally the two groups are ranked separately, to find out the best papers of the publication cycle in the two categories.
9. The oral and poster competitions are conducted at the annual symposium. To ensure full engagement by all attendees, all registered symposium participants, independently of the status of student or professional, are asked to judge all presentations and posters no matter who is giving them, a students or a professionals. The scores are normalized by judge (to remove any individual judge bias), and then averaged across all judges (to compensate for the fact that not all posters or presentations receive the same number of votes). Only at the final tally the two groups are ranked separately. This give an opportunity to students to be judges not only of other students but also of professionals, including sometimes their teachers.

### ***Comments for the Student Contest***

1. The awards are **independent of each other** with the exception of the Special Awards, so it is possible to *win more than one award*. **The Special Awards are given to students who do not win any other awards.**
2. If the quality of a competition is lower than expected, the Contest Chair reserves the right not to present one or more of the awards.
3. The amount of money for each award is decided yearly based on the available funds for the Student Contest.
4. The amount of money is divided so that all first place awards get the same amount of money, second places get less money than the first place but more than third. Depending on the budget and the number of awards given out, the amount for the special awards could be the same as the 1st place, the 2nd place or somewhere in between.
5. Any attendee can participate in scoring the students' presentations and posters for an award.
6. The President, the Program Chair, the Contest Chair, and the judge in charge of the Anthony Sances Jr. Award of Merit select at least five possible nominees in rank order for their awards, and the Student Chair selects the winner as the first name on their list that has not yet won an award.

### ***Comments for the Professional Contest***

1. Every attendee will be encouraged to participate as a judge of the Professional Contest.