In 1987, Dr. and Mrs. Don Ishmael established the annual Ishmael Essay Contest inviting dental and dental hygiene students to submit an essay related to dentistry. Dr. Ishmael was a distinguished dentist in Oklahoma City, and was a strong advocate of scholarship and professionalism.

**ELIGIBILITY:** Dental And Dental Hygiene Students.

**ALL STUDENT RESEARCH PROGRAM SCHOLARS ARE REQUIRED TO SUBMIT AN ESSAY.**

**TOPIC OF ESSAY:** Any subject related to dentistry. The essay must be original, appropriately referenced, and ideas may be sought from faculty. It may be in the form of a research paper or an original essay on an ethical or philosophical topic in dentistry.

**TITLE OF ESSAY:** Maximum 70 characters including spaces.

**LENGTH OF ESSAY:** Minimum of six and maximum of eight pages printed on 8.5" X 11.0" paper in double-spaced format. Tables, graphs, photos and references are not included in the eight-page maximum.

**SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:** You are encouraged to use tables, graphs, or photos to illustrate your essay, but those components are not mandatory. References, tables, graphs and photos are not included in the eight-page maximum. Submit your essay to the Office of Research Development (DCSB 146) by 4 PM on Friday, February 12, 2016 in the following format:

1) One printed copy of your essay
2) One title page with title of essay and author's name
3) One title page with title of essay only – do not include author's name

**IMPORTANT:** All of the above documents should be held together with a paperclip or binder clip (do not place in a spiral binder or report cover)
4) An electronic copy of the essay sent via email to Luellen Chenoweth (luellen-chenoweth@ouhsc.edu).

**FINALISTS:** Five finalists will be announced during Spring Break. The finalists will present their essays as oral presentations during Scientific Day on April 14, 2016.

**JUDGING:** Four judges from the College of Dentistry faculty will evaluate the essays and select five finalists. The selection of award winners will be based on the combined scores for the essay and the oral presentation, as described below. The first-place essay may be published in the Oklahoma Dental Association Journal*.

All essays will be screened using Turnitin anti-plagiarism software.

**JUDGING CRITERIA FOR ESSAY:**
All essays submitted will be judged on four criteria (75% of overall score)

- Originality
- Organization
- Clarity (including grammar and spelling)
- Importance to Oral Science or Dental Practice

**JUDGING CRITERIA FOR ORAL PRESENTATION:** (25% of overall score)

- Evidence-Based Presentation
- Clarity and Appeal of Visual Aids
- Ability to Convey Concepts to General Audience
- Thorough Understanding of Subject and Ability to Respond to Questions
- Dignified/Professional Appearance, Demeanor, and Language

**Submission Deadline to the Office of Research Development is 4 PM on February 12, 2016**

* The Dean's Office will contact the student receiving the first-place prize to discuss and manage publication in the Oklahoma Dental Association Journal.