



COLLEGE OF DENTISTRY
The UNIVERSITY of OKLAHOMA HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER

38th Annual Ishmael Essay Contest

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 who was a strong advocate of scholarship and professionalism. The contest is divided into two categories – Dental student and Dental hygiene student – to make the contest more equitable for both groups of students. The 1st place award in each category is \$500, the 2nd place award in each category is \$250, and the 3rd place award in each category is \$100.

ELIGIBILITY: All Dental and Dental Hygiene Students.

Student Research Program (SRP) Scholars are required to submit an essay describing their project. If SRP scholars have worked on a project in pairs, one SRP scholar must describe their project and the other scholar will submit an essay on an ethical or philosophical topic in dentistry.

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 length of the title is ten words.

LENGTH OF ESSAY: A minimum of five pages and a maximum of eight pages on 8.5" X 11.0" paper in double-spaced format with 1" margins. Title page, tables, graphs, photos and references are not included in the eight-page maximum limit. Students are encouraged to use tables, graphs, or photos to illustrate their essays, but those components are not mandatory.

Submit essays to ruth-tibolla@ouhsc.edu by 4 PM on Friday, February 7, 2025 in the following format:

- 1) One electronic copy of your essay including essay's title (excluding your name) as a Word file
- 2) One electronic title page with title of the essay and author's name only as a Word file

FINALISTS: The names of the six finalists will be announced by March 4. The finalists will present their essays as oral presentations during Scientific Day on March 27, 2025.

JUDGING: Four judges from the College of Dentistry faculty will evaluate the essays and select the six finalists. The selection of award winners will be based on the combined scores for the essay and the oral presentation, as described below. Prize-winning essays may be published in the *Oklahoma Dental Association Journal* at the discretion of the Associate Dean for Research and Innovation.

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

JUDGING CRITERIA FOR ORAL PRESENTATION

The six oral presentations will be judged on the following criteria (25% of overall score):

- Evidence-Based Presentation
- Importance to Oral Science or Dental Practice
- 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 ruth-tibolla@ouhsc.edu is 4 PM on February 7, 2025