Out of Hours

The Kieran Sweeney Prize 2016:

a national UK prize for medical writing by GPs

THE PRIZE

Professor Kieran Sweeney was a GP in Exeter who died in 2009 of mesothelioma, at the age of 58 years. He applied ideas from philosophy, the arts, mathematics, business, and social sciences to the care of his patients and the process of health care. He was also an accomplished medical writer. The Tamar Faculty has decided to honour his memory with a national biennial prize of £1000, to be awarded in even years, for the best original article submitted by a practising GP.

The winning entry will be favourably considered for publication in the *British Journal of General Practice*.

THE ARTICLE

The article must be previously unpublished and have a medical theme. It must have been written solely by the entrant. Articles using ideas from disciplines outside medicine will be especially welcome.

The piece may draw on personal clinical experience and could explore a topic of political or historical importance. The piece should be aimed at a non-specialist audience, and written in prose at a level that an interested member of the public could understand.

JUDGING CRITERIA

- Command and good use of the literature relevant to the topic;
- Fresh insight into a new or familiar topic; cogent challenge to received wisdom;
- Clear, direct, and concise writing;
- Writing that is elegant, compelling, and uses language in original ways;
- Writing that avoids jargon or cliché; and
- Correct grammar, syntax, spelling, and punctuation.

THE JUDGES

Roger Jones, Editor of the *BJGP*; Sam Llewellyn, writer, storyteller, and Editor of *Marine Quarterly*; and Nick Bradley,

Awarded by the Tamar Faculty of the Royal College of General Practitioners.

Provost of the Tamar Faculty of the Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP), will be the people assessing the entries and deciding on a winner.

THE RULES

The competition is open to licensed general medical practitioners appearing on the GMC GP register. To avoid conflicts of interest, entry is closed to officers and members of the Board of Tamar Faculty RCGP; to the judges of the prize and to their immediate families; and to members of Kieran Sweeney's immediate family.

Joint entrants or joint authors may not enter. The article must not have been entered for a national RCGP or RCGP faculty award or prize in the 3 years up to 1 September 2016. If in the judges' opinion none of the entries merit being awarded the prize, no prize will be awarded.

The maximum length of an article entered for the prize is 2500 words, excluding the title, frontispiece, references, and acknowledgements. The word count must be stated and the article must be text only, with no diagrams, tables, or photographs.

The article must be written in Word UK English using Tahoma font size 11, with 1.5 line spacing.

The competition opens on Thursday 1 September 2016. The deadline for entries is 23.59 hours on Friday 30 September 2016. The judges' decision will be final. Entrants will be notified of the result, after which no further correspondence will be conducted relating to the judging process.

HOW TO ENTER

Articles must be submitted by email, along with a completed entry form, which is available from Alice Sefton, Tamar Faculty Administrator: tamar@rcgp.org.uk.

For further details telephone 01392 722744 or visit <http://www.rcgp.org.uk/tamar>.

Nick Bradley,

Provost, Tamar Faculty, RCGP.

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"The Tamar Faculty has decided to honour [the memory of Kieran Sweeney] with a national biennial prize of £1000 ... for the best original article."