



Canadian Society of Palliative Medicine

UNDERGRADUATE NARRATIVE AWARD FOR PALLIATIVE MEDICINE

Criteria and Submission Information

Description and Purpose of the Award:

The narrative should express the student's view regarding the **role of palliative care in transcending the difficult aspects of death and dying**. How do palliative care professionals help patients, families, communities and the healthcare team—including physicians—to move beyond the sadness tragedy and pain of life-limiting situations and create space and opportunities for growth, healing, beauty, and meaning for patients and those who care for them? How have these experiences influenced your development as a physician?

Nominated by: Self-submission

Eligibility: Open to medical students who are in the penultimate year at a Canadian medical school (e.g., 2nd year of a 3 year program or 3rd year of a 4 year program)

Format: Any medium.

Poetry: maximum of 70 lines

Prose: maximum of 1,000 words

Images: minimum 300dpi, pdf or other common format

If an image has a caption, a limit of 50 words is recommended

Video or audio: common format

Appropriate consent must be obtained via a formal [release form](#) to be signed by the person referenced, a parent or guardian, or next-of-kin if the person is deceased.

Judging: Submissions will be blinded as much as possible before forwarding to the judging committee. They will be evaluated by a committee including three senior palliative care physicians who have been selected by the Undergraduate Education Committee (one of whom must be a member of the CSPM Awards Committee), a staff member from the humanities section at the *CMAJ*, and an additional judge from the Canadian humanities in medicine community.

Exclusions:

- Judges may not be referenced within any of the submissions, either by name or by image
- Judges must not be related to any of the applicants

Prize:

- \$500 cash and a commemorative certificate. The cash award is sponsored by Pallium Canada.
- Narrative featured on the CSPM web site.
- Opportunity to present/share the narrative at the Advanced Learning in Palliative Medicine conference. The conference registration fee is covered; travel is not.
- Subject to peer review, some entries may be featured in a *CMAJ* print or online publication

Submission: Email the narrative to: office@pallmed.ca. Submissions should include the name of the student, address, email address, phone and fax number and name of the medical school in which the student is enrolled. Submissions may be in English or French.

Before submitting your narrative, consider that all **submissions are fully blinded before presentation to the judging committee** and may impact the quality of the submission. This includes images (including self-images) and videos, for example.

Criteria:

Each submission will be judged on

- How well it fulfills the description and purpose of the award as noted above.
- Creativity
- Quality of presentation

Timeline:

Announcement	October 2025
Reminder	January 2026
Submission deadline	May 8, 2026
Announce Winner	September 2026