

Lay Science Writing Competition Guidelines

These Guidelines (the “Guidelines”) describe the requirements for the Canadian Blood Services Lay Science Writing Competition. The Lay Science Writing Competition terms and conditions may be altered without notice. Applicants should always refer to the latest edition of the Guidelines.

I. General Information

Canadian Blood Services is a not-for-profit charitable organization. Regulated by Health Canada as a biologics manufacturer and primarily funded by the provincial and territorial ministries of health, Canadian Blood Services operates with a national scope, infrastructure and governance that make it unique within Canadian healthcare. In the domain of blood, plasma and stem cells, we provide services for patients on behalf of all provincial and territorial governments except Quebec. The national transplant registry for interprovincial organ sharing and related programs reaches into all provinces and territories, as a biological lifeline for Canadians. Through our Centre for Innovation, we facilitate the creation, translation, and application of new knowledge to support a safe, effective, and responsive system of blood and related biological products for Canada.

Canadian Blood Services Lay Science Writing Competition is delivered in partnership with the Centre for Blood Research at the University of British Columbia and Science Borealis. The Competition provides trainees the opportunity to showcase to the public their research in the domain of blood, plasma, stem cells, or organs and tissues. It also supports trainees in their development of vital communication skills. This year’s Competition theme is “**Research that matters!**” and entries must describe the impact of the research on the transfusion and transplantation system and our society.

The winning entry will receive a \$300 prize and the two runners-up will each receive \$100 prizes. Selected entries will be disseminated through Canadian Blood Services and partners’ online platforms and social media channels.

II. Eligibility and competition rules

- **Applicant:** The applicant must be a member of the Canadian Blood Services extended research trainee network. This includes graduate students, postdoctoral fellows and research associates directly or indirectly supported by Canadian Blood Services, including:
 - trainees training in Canadian Blood Services research and development laboratories;



- trainees training in academic laboratories currently supported by Canadian Blood Services [Competitive Research Funding Programs](#);
- trainees receiving funding from Canadian Blood Services Competitive Training Funding Programs (i.e., Canadian Blood Services Graduate Fellowship and Canadian Blood Services Postdoctoral Fellowship Programs);
- trainees training in a research laboratory at the Centre for Blood Research at University of British Columbia.
- **Topic:** Submissions must describe research in the domain of blood, plasma, stem cells, or organs and tissues. Submissions must be aligned with the competition’s theme and describe how research may impact our transfusion and transplantation system and our society.
- Submissions must describe the applicant’s research project(s) or their supervisors’ research.
- Submissions must be the original work of the applicants, in English, and not have been published before. Submissions must include a concise title (maximum of 150 characters including spaces) and must not exceed 800 words.

III. Application process and evaluation

- Complete the Lay Science Writing Competition Application Form and submit to Canadian Blood Services’ Centre for Innovation at centreforinnovation@blood.ca on or before the competition deadline, as per the Instructions in the Application Form. No Application Forms or additional materials will be accepted after the deadline.
- The duly received Lay Science Writing Competition Application Form constitutes an agreement to adhere to the rules governing the competition.
- Canadian Blood Services will acknowledge receipt of the Application Form by email. It is the responsibility of the Applicant to ensure the Application Form has been received by Canadian Blood Services. Please contact the Centre for Innovation if your Application Form is not acknowledged.
- All submissions will be assessed by Canadian Blood Services to ensure eligibility criteria are met (see Section II). All submissions that meet eligibility criteria will be anonymized and reviewed.
- Canadian Blood Services will convene a jury to review and rank the submissions. Submissions will be judged on their writing and storytelling merits considering the following equally weighted criteria. Submissions will not be judged on the quality of the research and science presented.

Criterion	Description
Relevance	Is the research aligned with one or more of the identified domains relevant to Canadian Blood Services (blood, plasma, stem cells, or organs and tissues)? Does the submission describe/postulate the impact of the research



on the transfusion and transplantation system or our society?

Accessibility & clarity of language

Is the language accessible? Are the concepts described clear to a non-expert? Is it jargon-free? Is the piece well-structured and free from grammar and spelling errors?

Concept/premise/originality

Is the submission interesting? Creative? Engaging? Is the author's voice original and strong?

- Upon completion of their review, the jury will submit their ranking recommendations to the Canadian Blood Services' Director, Centre for Innovation for final approval.
- Canadian Blood Services will inform applicants of the competition outcomes within three (3) months of the submission deadline.
- Award-winning entries and selected entries will be published and disseminated through Canadian Blood Services, Centre for Blood Research and Science Borealis' social media platforms.

IV. General terms and conditions of the competition

- These Guidelines, including the terms and conditions of the award, may be altered by Canadian Blood Services without notice. Applicants shall comply with the latest edition of the Guidelines.
- It is the applicants' responsibilities to ensure and attest to the originality of their submissions. The Centre for Innovation reserves the right to employ plagiarism detection software to ensure the originality of submissions.
- Applicants shall ensure that submissions do not infringe third party intellectual property rights and comply with appropriate copyright and academic authorship standards.
- Materials submitted to this competition may be disseminated on the world wide web and social media platforms at the discretion of Canadian Blood Services and its partners. Applicants may be asked to participate in these dissemination activities.
- There are no restrictions on the use of prize money offered to the applicants of winning entries. The prize money will be paid directly to the applicants who will be responsible for any and all taxes.



**Canadian
Blood
Services**

BLOOD
PLASMA
STEM CELLS
ORGANS
& TISSUES

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V. Contact and enquiries

Enquiries should be addressed to the Centre for Innovation at centreforinnovation@blood.ca or at (613) 739-2496.