

SUJAL SYMPOSIUM STUDENT ESSAY COMPETITION

WHAT

“It was an incredible experience ...”

“My experience profoundly changed how I think about health disparities ...”

“I returned with an improved sense of appreciation for luxuries I ordinarily take for granted ...”

Reports from students following an experience in a low-resource setting often focus on the personal benefit and their own educational development. And so they should: hands-on experience in a place where resources are scarce can be valuable.

But what about the host community? Consider your own experience in a low-resource area through the perspective of the community you were there to serve. Did that community benefit or pay a cost? Which stakeholders, if any, benefited from your involvement and how? Who paid for the experience (not just in dollars), and who made significant decisions that made it possible? If you had not been there, what might have happened differently? What happened after you left?

Entries need not address all of these questions, but these are issues to ponder as you reflect.



WHO

Students from any health science discipline with experience in a low-resource setting are encouraged to participate.

WIN

A select number of finalists will be invited to read their essay aloud and make a short presentation about their experience during the Oct. 4 symposium. **One winner will be awarded a \$250 cash prize.**

GUIDELINES

- Submissions should be the work of a single author, must represent original work, and must not have been previously published in print or electronic format.
- Entries should not exceed 1,000 words.
- Please submit either a Microsoft Word or PDF document using double-spaced, 11-point font.
- For blind review, do not include your name or any other identifying information on the essay document. (Mention of other individuals in the essay should conform to anonymity standards and ensure privacy.)
- Only one submission per person.
- Include the title of your essay on all document pages.



HOW TO SUBMIT

Send an email with your essay as an attachment to rbhodes@med.umich.edu. In the body of the email, include the following information:

- First and last name
- Phone Number
- Address
- Essay title
- Degree program
- Anticipated year of graduation

WHEN

The deadline to enter is **Aug. 18, 2017**.