



Arthur Newell Award - Motor Neurone Disease Prize

Award Details:

The first-place award is a silver medal and financial prize for the best critical appraisal on any aspect of MND care or research. In 2024-25, £1700 is available to be subdivided to 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners. Prize winners are invited to the annual School prizegiving ceremony in December in Riddell Hall.

The NI MNDA ask that the award winners write a short article to be published in their local NI Newsletter and in Thumbprint, the Association National Newsletter. Photographs to accompany the articles are taken at the award ceremony.

The NI MNDA branch use dedicated funds to provide this medal and bursary award for Queens with two objectives in mind;

1. In honour of a long serving NI branch member Arthur Newell who passed away with MND, thus the title of the medal and bursary award.
2. The encouragement of 3rd year medical students to become more aware of MND, its causes and impact on individuals, families and society as it is evident that many doctors in training and practice have not been exposed to patients with MND or have treated or cared for a person living with MND.

Motor Neurone Disease (MND) is a rare neurodegenerative disorder characterised by progressive weakness and wasting of voluntary muscle. There is still no cure for MND, with average survival between 1 and 2 years of diagnosis. People living with MND are not frequently admitted to general hospital wards, such that many medical students may have little or no contact with people living with MND during their medical school training.

The Arthur Newell award is generously funded by the Northern Ireland branch of the MND Association UK, to raise awareness of MND and expertise in its diagnosis and management.

Applications in the form of a written submission are invited from students in Year 3 of the QUB MBChB course. Submissions reviewing and critically appraising an element of MND research, treatment or care provision, of no more than 1000 words, to include an abstract and no more than 15 appropriately cited references, should be sent to the email advertised by the closing date each year. Entries will be judged by a panel of clinical specialists working with patients with MND. The winner will receive their prize at the School's Annual Prize Ceremony held in November/December each year.

Eligible Students: Year 3 MBChB students QUB

Submission: email your essay to Rosaleen Smyth Rosaleen.smyth@qub.ac.uk

Deadline: 26th June 2026

Word count limit: 1000

For Information

Students can schedule a one-on-one session with Learning Development Services to get academic writing support.

<https://www.qub.ac.uk/directorates/sgc/learning/One-to-OneAppointments/>