



Hazel Nicholas Prize

Background

This annual prize was established in 2025 by the Nicholas family in memory of Hazel Nicholas who died of Progressive Supranuclear palsy (PSP), an atypical Parkinsonian condition. Most Neurodegenerative disorders like PSP remain without cure, but early recognition and compassionate management are crucial for patients and their families.

This opportunity to prepare a clinical case, discuss current research or prepare an educational tool will deepen your clinical acumen and demonstrate your potential as a future clinical researcher or teacher. It is an opportunity to enhance your CV and stand out from your peers, deepen your understanding of Neurodegenerative disorders and importantly contribute to the legacy of a patient whose family wishes to advance medical understanding and care for such devastating disorders.

How it is awarded

The prize is open to medical students in years 3, 4 and 5.

This prize will be awarded annually by the Medical School, on the recommendation of a selection panel comprised of at least two individuals from a relevant discipline, to an undergraduate student in Medicine for a report/ paper/ project in the field of Neurodegeneration* (e.g. PSP, other atypical Parkinsonian disorder, Parkinson's disease, dementia) by a date specified by the Panel.

(*work on Motor Neurone disease should not be submitted; it should be submitted for the Arthur Newell award).

There is a monetary award and certificate. Work should be submitted to the email advertised by the due date. The School reserves the right not to award the prize if they feel that no work of sufficient merit has been submitted.

Details of Prize

1. Applications will be accepted for the following:
 - a) Clinical case: A clinical case relevant to Neurodegenerative disease with appropriate discussion.
 - b) Review of recent research into a Neurodegenerative disease
 - c) Educational tool for peers or patients in a topic related to Neurodegeneration.
2. Applications will be accepted in the following formats:
 - a. Written report (1000 words max, excluding abstract)
 - b. powerpoint slide deck (max 6 slides)
 - c. short form video (2 minutes max).

3. The presentation must be for work undertaken since entering medical school and not as part of any previous degree project such as a graduate entry student who may have participated in prior neuroscience research.

Assessment

All entries will be reviewed by members of the selection panel and the prize will be awarded thereafter.

Prize winners whose projects are felt to be of particularly high quality will be invited to present their work at a national meeting or submit it for publication.

Eligible Students: Year 3, 4, 5

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

Deadline: 26th June 2026

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/>