

2026 MCA Legacy Essay Competition

In 1976 Edwards and Gross described a new clinical syndrome of Alcohol Dependence.

Fifty years later, how relevant and useful is the concept of the Alcohol Dependence Syndrome to the diagnosis and clinical management of alcohol-related health harm?

Entrants must submit a maximum 3,000 word essay referenced in the Vancouver style to address the topic. The word count does not include references, diagrams and tables.

The MCA Legacy Essay Competition is held every year on a different alcohol related topic.

This competition is open to all UK medical students.

To view previous competitions please go to www.m-c-a.org.uk

2026 Application

Entrants must be current medical students in the United Kingdom.

Only single-authored entries will be accepted.

To apply go to: m-c-a.org.uk/education and upload your essay (MS Word format only). As the essay marking process is anonymized, please do not type your name or personal information anywhere inside the document (eg in the header, footer, or as a title on the first page).

Please **name the file** as your full name (eg First Name Last Name.docx)

The winning essays will receive:

1st Prize	£750
2nd Prize	£500
3rd Prize	£300

MCA Legacy Essay Competition

All winners will be invited to attend the MCA 2026 Annual Symposium and be awarded a certificate.

The winning essay will be published in the MCA Annual Report.



Opening date: 1 January 2026

Closing date: 1 May 2026

Contact

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