**\*Please read terms and conditions before proceeding with your application\***

These T&C’s apply to the *“Medical and Scientific Communication Competition”* in 2023 run by the North West Biotech Initiative, a student-led society that is part of The University of Manchester’s Students Union and funded by the Masood Entrepreneurship Centre. For this competition, we are in collaboration with VMLY&Rx who are providing the funding for the prizes.

**General Rules/Guidelines**

1. **Eligibility and application:**
	1. The competition is open to all final year undergraduate students, postgraduate students, post-doctoral research associates and staff enrolled at any of the universities of the UK at least until June 2023.
	2. Only one application per individual is permitted.
	3. To enter the competition the individual must prepare the slides as described in the brief and email them to manchester@nwbiotech.co.uk by **Monday 3rd April 2023.**
	4. The slides must be the individual’s own interpretation of the brief.
	5. The slides must be novel and not presented in any other competition before.
	6. The NW Biotech Initiative reserves the right to contact entrants to validate the entry information.
	7. The applications which do not meet the above criteria will not be taken into evaluation or will be disqualified if any of the criteria are found to be breached during the course of the competition.
2. **First round - evaluation of applications:**
	1. The NWBI committee will evaluate the application forms and the 12 best applications will be shortlisted.
	2. The successful applicants (qualified teams) will be notified by the **17th of April** and will receive the competition schedule and instructions regarding online presentation/ competition day
	3. There can be no appeal against the decision of the committee and these decisions must be accepted as final.
	4. The evaluation criteria may be provided upon request.
3. **Second round: Presentations/ Competition day**
	1. All the sessions will be held *via* Zoom online platform (TBC).
	2. The shortlisted applicants will attend an online presentation assessment where they will present the slides submitted as entry to the competition. No further amendments will be allowed to the slides.
	3. Presentations will be 30 minutes long including a presentation of the slides and a question and answer session.
	4. On the day of the presentations, the judges will evaluate the pitches, select the winners and award the prizes to the three best teams.
	5. The presentation slides must be presented in Microsoft PowerPoint format.
	6. All the individuals will receive judging forms and anonymised written feedback after the event.
	7. There can be no appeal against the decision of the judges and these decisions must be accepted as final.
	8. The judges may decide to award joint prizes. If there are no entries of sufficient quality, at the absolute discretion of the judges, the right not to award any prize is reserved.
	9. The evaluation criteria may be provided upon request.
4. **Rules on presentation/pitch and evaluation**
	1. The presentation/pitch will be followed by a Q&A session performed by the judges.
	2. Both the presentation and the Q&A session will count for the judges’ evaluation.
	3. No copyrighted material allowed; teams can use open-source code and Creative Commons licensed images/videos.
	4. Only the individual who will enter the competition can present.
	5. Individuals should get informed consent if images of people appear in the presentation.
5. **Rules/Guidelines for judges:**
	1. **Judging attitudes:[[1]](#footnote-1)**
	2. Mentorship - give constructive criticism as well as highlight strong points
	3. Championship - find the overall excellence
	4. Critique - evaluate projects, but do not be inquisitive
	5. Fairness - judge teams on their own merits
	6. **Judging Protocol:[[2]](#footnote-2)**
	7. Watch pitches/presentations
	8. Quiz on presentations during the judging sessions
	9. Fill in the judging form and award points to the teams
	10. Votes of an individual judge represent their individual opinion, not a consensus of the judging panel. The organising committee will determine the winner based on the points from all judges in the judging forms
	11. Judges are asked to write at least one positive comment and one constructive criticism in the judging forms provided. The comments will be anonymised before presenting them to the Teams
	12. Judges can award the prizes, if deemed appropriate by the NWBI committee.
6. **Prizes:**
	1. All individuals will be issued a Certificate of Participation.
	2. Three prizes will be awarded collectively to the team:

1st place - 600£\*

2nd place - 300£\*

3rd place - 100£\*

\* Apart from the cash prizes, up to and including 6 individuals will be invited to a half-day Medical and Scientific Communications Masterclass at the VMLY&Rx offices for the top 6 candidates. This Masterclass will be organised after the Competition day and likely to take place in May 2023.

1. **Competition timeline and schedule:**
* **3rd April 2023:** Application deadline
* **17th April 2023:** Notification to the Finalists
* **TBC:** Presentation assessments
* **TBC:** Announcement of Winners and feedback sent to finalists
1. **Complaints and Responsible Conduct Issues:**

If you find that anyone involved in the competition is breaching the competition rules or behaving in a manner not in line with the standard of the Competition, please contact the NBI committee at manchester@nwbiotech.co.uk.

1. Adapted from: iGEM Foundation, <https://2020.igem.org/Judging/Resources>, (accessed Jan 14th, 2021). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Adapted from: iGEM Foundation, <https://2020.igem.org/Judging/Resources>, (accessed Jan 14th, 2021). [↑](#footnote-ref-2)