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4 September 2018

**Re: Mary Ward Essay Prize in Traffic Medicine**

Dear Sir/Madam,

I write on behalf of the **National Office for Traffic Medicine (NOTM)** to ask for your assistance to notify your medical and allied health undergraduate students of the **Mary Ward Essay Prize in Traffic Medicine**. The prize which commemorates the name of the victim of the first automobile accident in history, in Birr, Co. Offaly, in 1869 is sponsored by the Road Safety Authority (RSA) and is valued at €500.

By offering this prize for a fourth year running and by extending from medical students to all allied health undergraduate students (or graduate entry programmes which award a bachelor-level degree), the NOTM with the RSA aims to continue to encourage medical and allied health undergraduate students to be aware of and to consider patients' medical fitness to drive in their studies and to continue to do so as they progress throughout their medical careers. With this in mind, this year the focus of student essays should be on a subject pertinent to Medical Fitness to Drive. Entries will be accepted up on or before 11 January 2019 (see the attached poster for further details).

A wide range of resources related to Medical Fitness to Drive are available on the NOTM website <https://www.rcpi.ie/traffic-medicine/>. An electronic version of the *Sláinte agus Tiomáint* Medical Fitness to Drive Guidelines, which is produced by the NOTM for the RSA can also be accessed at [www.rsa.ie](http://www.rsa.ie)

We will be inviting the winner of the Mary Ward essay prize to present the findings of their winning entry at our 2019 Research Day which will be held in the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland. Previous winners have also published versions of their essays in peer-reviewed journals!

My sincere thanks to you in anticipation of your help to communicate this essay prize to your students. To further this communication we have include flyer for circulation and/or display.

Yours sincerely,

*Margaret Ryan*

**Dr P. Desmond O'Neill MA, MD, FRCPI, AGSF, FRCP(Glasg)**  
Director, National Office for Traffic Medicine, RSA/RCPI

RSA

National Office for Traffic Medicine

ROYAL  
COLLEGE OF  
PHYSICIANS  
OF IRELAND

## Mary Ward Essay Prize in Traffic Medicine



In view of the major developments in guidelines for Medical Fitness to Drive (Sláinte agus Tiomáint), as well as the expanding educational programme in Traffic Medicine in Ireland, the National Office for Traffic Medicine (NOTM) invites entries for the 2018 Mary Ward Essay Prize.

This annual Prize is sponsored by the Road Safety Authority of Ireland and commemorates the name of the victim of the first automobile accident in history, in Birr, Co Offaly, in 1869.

### Details of entry

- The essay should be minimum 1,500 and maximum 3,000 words in length and should be on a subject pertinent to traffic medicine. It should include a review of relevant literature, but particular credit will be given for original thought and relevance to doctors, allied health professional, and medical and allied health students.
- Applicants must be medical or allied health students on a full-time course in the Republic of Ireland.
- Marks are awarded for overall presentation, structure, strength of argument, completeness of supporting literature, conclusions and relevance to doctors, allied health professional, and medical and allied health students.
- Essays to be submitted in MSWord format (please put your name and the name of your school in the header of each page) to [directortrafficmedicine@rcpi.ie](mailto:directortrafficmedicine@rcpi.ie)

### Details of Prize

- The value of the Prize is: **€500**
- Closing date: Monday, 11<sup>th</sup> January 2019
- The Prize winner should be prepared to make a presentation of their findings at the Research study day on *Health, Mobility and Road Safety Research* in 2019 in the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland.
- The winning essay will be published on the NOTM website.
- No correspondence can be entered into concerning the judges' decision.
- For further details on the National Office for Traffic Medicine and Medical Fitness to Drive Guidelines visit [www.rcpi.ie/trafficmedicine](http://www.rcpi.ie/trafficmedicine)