



## **2012 WDA/EWDA STUDENT AWARDS COMPETITION**



### **The 2012 WDA/EWDA Joint Conference will be in Lyon, France (July 22-27, 2012)!**

The Wildlife Disease Association (WDA) annually offers four student awards. In addition, the European WDA (EWDA) is offering a student travel award for the 2012 joint meeting! Students are encouraged to compete for the following awards:

**1) WDA Graduate Student Research Recognition Award:**

This award is given to the student judged to have the best research project in the field of wildlife health or disease. The winner receives up to \$5,000 US to cover travel, housing, registration, and similar expenses related to the conference. The student will be the keynote speaker during the student presentation session at the conference.

**2) WDA Graduate Student Scholarship Award:**

This award acknowledges outstanding academic and research accomplishment, productivity, and future potential in pursuit of new knowledge in wildlife disease or health. The scholarship has a value of \$2,000 US.

**3) WDA Terry Amundson Student Presentation Award:**

This award acknowledges outstanding oral presentation of research findings at the annual WDA conference. The winner receives \$250 US.

**4) WDA Student Poster Award:**

This award goes to the best student poster detailing a wildlife disease or wildlife health research project presented at the annual WDA conference. The winner receives \$250 US.

**5) EWDA Student Travel Award:**

A maximum of four suitable students will be awarded 250 euro each.

**Applicants for the WDA awards must be student members of the WDA at the time applications or abstracts are received.** Information about WDA student membership can be found at:

[https://timssnet2.allenpress.com/ECOMWDAS/timssnet/memberships/tnt\\_membership.cfm](https://timssnet2.allenpress.com/ECOMWDAS/timssnet/memberships/tnt_membership.cfm).

Applicants for the **WDA Graduate Student Research Recognition Award** and **WDA Graduate Student Scholarship Award** must be pursuing an advanced (graduate) degree at the time of application. All four **WDA** awards are non-renewable, and each award may be received only once by a given candidate. Please direct inquiries to:

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**WDA Awards:**

Dr. Emi K. Saito, Chair  
WDA Student Awards Committee  
[Emi.K.Saito@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:Emi.K.Saito@aphis.usda.gov)

**EWDA Student Travel Award:**

Dr. Ignasi Marco  
EWDA Board, Student Activities  
[Ignasi.Marco@uab.cat](mailto:Ignasi.Marco@uab.cat)

## APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS:

### 1. Wildlife Disease Association Graduate Student Research Recognition Award

**DEADLINE:** Applications must be *received electronically no later than Friday, March 2, 2012.*

This award is given to the student judged to have the best research project in the field of wildlife health/disease, based on written communication and scientific achievement. The winner receives a plaque and up to \$5,000 US to cover travel, housing, registration, and similar expenses related to the annual WDA conference. The student will be the keynote speaker during the student presentation session at the conference.

For consideration, applicants must electronically submit their application (formatted in PDF or MS Word files) **as an e-mail attachment** to the Dr. Emi K. Saito at [Emi.K.Saito@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:Emi.K.Saito@aphis.usda.gov). The application should include the following documents:

- 1) A summary of their research structured as follows: *Title, abstract, introduction, materials and methods, results, discussion, references, tables, and figures*. The abstract, introduction, materials and methods, results, and discussion must be **limited to 10 double-spaced pages with a typeface of font 10 or larger and 1 inch margins**. The title page should be separate.
- 2) A cover letter, written by the applicant, stating how the research relates to the WDA mission. The mission statement is available inside the back cover of the Journal of Wildlife Diseases or on the WDA website (<http://www.wildlifedisease.org/index.shtml>).
- 3) One letter of support from the faculty advisor indicating degree of student involvement in planning and execution of the research project.

Grounds for disqualification include:

- Items missing.
- Submissions received beyond the deadline date.
- Failure to secure status as a student member of the WDA at the time of application.
- Absence from a graduate degree program at the time of application.

## 2. Wildlife Disease Association Graduate Student Scholarship

DEADLINE: Applications must be *received electronically* **no later than Friday, March 2, 2012.**

This award acknowledges outstanding academic and research accomplishment, productivity, and future potential in pursuit of new knowledge in wildlife disease or health. The scholarship has a value of \$2,000 US and is awarded annually to an outstanding student pursuing Master's or doctoral degrees specializing in wildlife disease research.

To be considered, the candidate must have completed a four-year baccalaureate degree. Candidates with an overall grade point average of 3.5 or above in 4.0 systems or 80% or better in percentile systems will receive priority. **Students not scored on the 4.0 grade point system MUST include an official explanation of the grade point or grade score system used at their institution and preferably provide a conversion to a 4.0 or percentile grade point average.** The candidate should be committed to leadership, scholarship, and service in the wildlife health profession.

To be considered, applicants must electronically submit one copy of the following documents (formatted as PDF or MS Word files) **as an e-mail attachment**. Documents should be submitted as an e-mail attachment to the chair of the student awards committee, Dr. Emi K. Saito at [Emi.K.Saito@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:Emi.K.Saito@aphis.usda.gov):

- 1) All collegiate transcripts. Official transcripts (i.e., with the imprint or official seal of the institution and signature of the responsible university officer) or copies signed by the student's faculty advisor are acceptable.
- 2) Up to two letters of support, including a letter from the student's faculty advisor, that **directly** address the following specific abilities of the applicant: *academic achievement, scholarly promise, research ability, oral and written communications skills, industriousness, leadership abilities, judgment, and potential for contribution to the field of wildlife diseases*. Additional letters (> 2) will not be read or evaluated, and letters not directly addressing the above qualities will not score well.
- 3) A curriculum vitae demonstrating evidence of superior scholastic achievement and productivity (specifically list and describe coursework and all scholarships, awards, publications, and presentations).

### Grounds for disqualification include:

- Items missing.
- Submissions received beyond the deadline date.
- Failure to secure status as a student member of the WDA at the time of application.
- Absence from a graduate degree program at the time of application.

### 3. Wildlife Disease Association Terry Amundson Student Presentation Award

DEADLINE: Applications through abstract submissions **no later than Friday, April 1, 2012.**

This award acknowledges outstanding oral presentation of research findings at the annual WDA conference. The winner receives \$250 US and a plaque. To be considered, the student must give an oral presentation on their research project to the WDA conference audience in the student presentation session.

To be considered for the award students must **submit an abstract clearly indicating the submission as a student award submission via the on-line abstract submission form** on the conference website (<http://wda2012.vetagro-sup.fr/>).

- Under the menu item *Preferred Type of Presentation*, select *Presentation*.
- Under *Student Presentation*, check *Yes*.
- If, as a student, you prefer not to be in the competition, select *No* for *Student Presentation*.
- The abstract should follow the general guidelines in the “Call for Abstracts/Papers.”

Abstracts may be scored on a competitive basis to determine which will be chosen for the conference and for consideration for this award.

Abstracts describing completed research projects with conclusions based upon the data generated are more likely to be selected. Candidates will be scored on the following criteria:

- Quality, innovation, and impact of science
- Quality of visual aids
- Delivery and style
- Relevance to management of wildlife/ecosystem health

### 4. Wildlife Disease Association Student Poster Award

DEADLINE: Applications through abstract submissions **no later than Friday, April 1, 2012.**

This award goes to the best student poster detailing a wildlife disease or wildlife health research project presented at the annual WDA conference. The winner receives \$250 US and a plaque. To be considered for the award students must **submit an abstract clearly indicating the submission as a student award submission via the on-line abstract submission form** on the conference website (<http://wda2012.vetagro-sup.fr/>).

- Under the menu item *Preferred Type of Presentation*, select *Poster*.
- Under *Student Presentation*, check *Yes*.
- Students preferring not to be in the competition should select *No* for *Student Presentation*.
- The abstract should follow the general guidelines in the “Call for Abstracts/Papers.”

Candidates will be scored on the following criteria:

- Quality, innovation, and impact of science
- Organization and layout of poster
- Quality and style of text, figures, and images
- Relevance to management of wildlife/ecosystem health

## 5. EWDA Student Travel Award

DEADLINE: Applications must be *received* no later than **Friday, April 1, 2012**.

For the 2012 WDA/EWDA join conference, EWDA will make a *Student Travel Award* available. A maximum of four suitable students will be awarded 250 euro each. The aim is to encourage students early in their career to attend the conference and to promote multinational diversity.

The award is open to any student (a person currently pursuing a university BSc-, MSc- or PhD- or residency-level training) who is motivated to pursue a career in wildlife diseases and who will be submitting an abstract for a poster or an oral presentation.

Candidates especially eligible are those that have to travel large distances and that have limited financial means to attend this conference. Candidates should send a short motivation text (maximum 500 words), including a brief summary of research interests, accomplishments to date, plans for the future and how will attending the conference influence your career. Please also include an estimation of your travel expenses (in euros) for attending the conference.

To be considered for this award, students must submit their motivation text and an abstract **clearly indicating the submission as a EWDA Student Travel Award** to Dr. Ignasi Marco ([Ignasi.Marco@uab.cat](mailto:Ignasi.Marco@uab.cat)) AND submit an abstract via the on-line abstract submission form on the conference website (<http://wda2012.vetagro-sup.fr/>). Students will receive the travel grant immediately following attendance to the conference.

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