

IAAAM- WDA Student Award Description

February 2021

About the award:

The Wildlife Disease Association (WDA) and the International Association for Aquatic Animal Medicine (IAAAM) jointly provide an award for the best student-authored aquatic animal paper in the previous year's Journal of Wildlife Diseases (JWD). The scholarship has a value of \$1,500 US, which can be used for fees, books, supplies, equipment, and other educational expenses incurred by the winner as a student during the pursuit of their graduate degree, or to support travel to conferences plus 1-year's WDA membership (Student or Regular Member online Journal only) and 1-year IAAAM membership (Student or Full membership, depending on the status of the recipient at the time of the award).

Points of Contact

- IAAAM: Board Member for Education 2021-2022 = Allison Tuttle (atuttle@mysticaquarium.org); Student Liaison Committee 2021-2022 = Ashley McGrew. Weblink for IAAAM contacts: <https://www.iaaam.org/about>
- WDA: Co-Chairs of the Student Awards Committee 2021-2022 = Michelle Verant (mverant@gmail.com) and Stuart Patterson SPatterson@rvc.ac.uk

Selection of eligible JWD articles for this award

- Journal of Wildlife Diseases (JWD) is published every quarter (Jan, Apr, Jul, Oct). For each issue, all aquatic animal articles are identified by a nominated member of IAAAM and/or WDA and posted on the website. These articles can be accessed by IAAAM members. Web link: <https://www.wildlifedisease.org/wda/PUBLICATIONS/JWDAquaticAnimalArticles.aspx>
- Once the final list of accepted articles for the 4th issue of JWD for the calendar year is available (generally in November each year), a list of all aquatic animal articles from all four JWD issues published in that calendar year is collated.
- Articles eligible for this award are selected from the list of all aquatic animal articles for that year based on the following criteria. There are approximately 1-15 articles each year whose authors meet these criteria.
 - The primary author MUST HAVE BEEN a student at the time the article was submitted for publication, and
 - **Must currently be a member in good standing of the IAAAM or WDA. Check your membership status or join**

Scoring Process and Timeline

- Four judges, typically two judges each from WDA and IAAAM with expertise in aquatic animal health review and score the list of eligible articles.
- Articles are scored based on several criteria including originality, clarity of presentation, support for hypotheses, analytic complexity, and importance.
- The winner is selected and notified generally by the end of February to allow enough time to invite them to present at either the IAAAM Annual Conference (normally in May each year) or at the WDA annual conference (normally sometime between July-Sept).
- If winner is unable to attend either the WDA or IAAAM annual conference, then the award will be sent to the student winner directly