

# 2021 WDA STUDENT AWARDS COMPETITION

The 69<sup>th</sup> WDA Annual International Conference will be held in Cuenca, Spain on August 30 - September 3, 2021

The Wildlife Disease Association (WDA) annually offers four student awards. Eligible students<sup>a,b</sup> are encouraged to compete for the following awards:

1) **[WDA Graduate Student Research Recognition Award \(SRRA\)<sup>c</sup>](#)**:

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 between \$2,500 to \$5,000 US to cover travel, housing, registration, and similar expenses related to the annual international WDA conference plus 1-year's WDA membership (Student or Regular Member Worldwide Online). If the expenses related to attendance at the annual international WDA conference are less than the minimum value of \$2,500 US, then the amount remaining can be used for fees, books, supplies, equipment and other educational expenses incurred by the student during the pursuit of his or her graduate degree. The student will be the keynote speaker during the student presentation session at the conference and their attendance is mandatory.

2) **[WDA Graduate Student Scholarship Achievement Award \(SSA\)<sup>c</sup>](#)**:

This award acknowledges outstanding academic and research accomplishment, productivity, and future potential in pursuit of new knowledge in wildlife health or disease. The scholarship has a minimum value of \$2,000 US, which can be used for fees, books, supplies, equipment and other educational expenses incurred by you as a student during the pursuit of your graduate degree, or to support travel to conferences plus 1-year's WDA membership (Student or Regular Member Worldwide Online). An additional \$1,500 is available to the winner, if they choose to use the funds to attend the annual international WDA conference. **Two WDA Graduate Student Scholarship Award awards are available in 2021.**

3) **[WDA Terry Amundson Student Presentation Award<sup>d</sup>](#)**:

This award acknowledges outstanding oral presentation of research findings at the annual international WDA conference. The winner receives \$350 US to offset conference expenses.

4) **[WDA Student Poster Award<sup>d</sup>](#)**:

This award goes to the best student poster detailing a wildlife disease or wildlife health research project presented at the annual international WDA conference. The winner receives \$350 US to offset conference expenses.

5) **[IAAAM/WDA Student Award](#)**:

The WDA and the International Association of Aquatic Animal Medicine (IAAAM) jointly provide an award for the best student authored aquatic animal paper in any previous years 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 or to support travel to conferences plus 1-year's WDA membership (Student or Regular Member Worldwide Online).

**DETAILED INFORMATION FOR EACH AWARD INCLUDING INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW TO APPLY AND APPLICATION DEADLINES ARE PROVIDED BELOW.**

<sup>a</sup> Applicants for all WDA awards must be *students*<sup>b</sup> AND members of the WDA. Further information about WDA student membership: <http://www.wildlifedisease.org/wda/MEMBERAREA/JoinRenew.aspx>

<sup>b</sup> WDA *student* definition: 1) enrolled in an undergraduate or graduate student program at least half-time, or 2) be participating full-time in an internship or residency program which is approved for credit towards board certification or graduate degree.

<sup>c</sup> Applicants for the WDA Graduate Student Research Recognition Award (SRRA) & WDA Graduate Student Scholarship Achievement Award (SSA) must be pursuing an advanced (graduate) degree at the time of application. Exception: Students who have completed their graduate programs are eligible to submit applications for the WDA Graduate SRRA up to the 1<sup>st</sup> annual international WDA conference occurring after the completion of their studies.

<sup>d</sup> Applicants for WDA Terry Amundson Student Presentation Award and the Student Poster Presentation Award must be WDA members and students at the time abstracts are received.

All WDA student awards are non-renewable, and each award may be received only once by a given candidate. Student can compete for as many awards as they like each year. However, there are restrictions to which awards can be awarded to the same student within the same calendar year (see table 1: Student Award Eligibility within the same calendar year). All awards will be presented at the annual international WDA conference.

**Please direct general inquiries to:** Tiggy Grillo or Michelle Verant, Co-Chairs, WDA Student Awards Committee ([tgrillo@wildlifehealthaustralia.com.au](mailto:tgrillo@wildlifehealthaustralia.com.au))

**Table 1: Student Award Eligibility within the same calendar year**

	Graduate Student Scholarship Achievement Award (SSA)	Graduate Student Research Recognition Award (SRRA)	Terry Amundson Student Presentation Award (Two awards: Winner & Honourable mention)	Student Poster Presentation Award (Two awards: Winner & Honourable mention)	Student Travel Award				
Graduate Student Scholarship Achievement Award (SSA)									
Graduate Student Research Recognition Award (SRRA)						The winner of the SRRA <b>cannot</b> be awarded the SSA in the same calendar year.			
Terry Amundson Student Presentation Award (Two awards: Winner & Honourable mention)						The Terry Amundson Student Presentation Awards <b>can</b> be awarded to the winner of the SSA in the same calendar year. However, if the SSA winner is awarded a Terry Amundson Student Presentation Award, then they are <b>not eligible</b> to win a poster presentation award.	The winner of the SRRA is the student plenary speaker at annual international WDA conference and therefore is <b>not eligible</b> to be scored for the Terry Amundson Student Presentation Award.		
Student Poster Presentation Award (Two awards: Winner & Honourable mention)						The Student Poster Presentation Award <b>can</b> be awarded to the winner of the SSA. However, if the SSA winner is awarded a Terry Amundson Student Presentation Award, then they are <b>not eligible</b> to win a poster presentation award.	The winner of the SRRA is the student plenary speaker at annual international WDA conference and therefore is <b>not eligible</b> to be scored for the Student Poster Presentation Award.	The Student Poster Presentation Award <b>can</b> be awarded to the same student as the Terry Amundson Student Presentation Award. However, if the SSA winner is awarded a Terry Amundson Student Presentation Award, then they are <b>not eligible</b> to win a poster presentation award.	
Student Travel Award <sup>a,b</sup>						The winner of the SSA is awarded funds that can be used to travel to the annual international WDA conference and therefore is <b>not eligible</b> to be awarded the Student Travel Award.	The winner of the SRRA is awarded funds to travel to the annual international WDA conference and therefore is <b>not eligible</b> to be awarded the Student Travel Award.	The Student Travel Award <b>can</b> be awarded to the same student as the Terry Amundson Student Presentation Award.	The Student Travel Award <b>can</b> be awarded to the same student as the Student Poster Presentation Award.

<sup>a</sup> Student Travel Award winners are NOT determined by the Student Awards Committee (SAwC). These are awarded by the WDA Student Activities Committee. SAwC Chair informs WDA Student Activities Committee of the SSA and SRRA awardees.

# Detailed Application Instructions

## 1. Wildlife Disease Association Graduate Student Research Recognition Award (SRRA)

**DEADLINE:** Applications must be received electronically no later than 26<sup>th</sup> February, 2021 [5pm in [West Samoa Time](#)].

This award is given to the student judged to have the best research project in the field of wildlife health and/or disease, based on written communication and scientific achievement.

The winner receives a plaque and between \$2,500 to \$5,000 US to cover travel, housing, registration, and similar expenses related to the annual international WDA conference. If the expenses related to attendance at the annual international WDA conference are less than the minimum value of \$2,500 US, then the amount remaining can be used for fees, books, supplies, equipment and other educational expenses incurred by the student during the pursuit of his or her graduate degree. The winner will also receive a 1-year membership to the WDA (Student or Regular Member Worldwide Online).

The student will be the keynote speaker during the student presentation session at the conference and their attendance is mandatory.

### **Applicant eligibility:**

Applicants must be **students AND members of the WDA**. WDA **student** definition: 1) enrolled in a graduate student program at least half-time, or 2) be participating full-time in an internship or residency program which is approved for credit towards board certification or graduate degree.

Applicants must be pursuing an advanced (graduate) degree (e.g. PhD, MSc, internship, residency) at the time of application. **Exception:** Students who have completed their graduate programs are eligible to submit applications for the WDA Graduate Student Research Recognition Award up to the first annual international WDA conference occurring after the completion of their studies.

### **Application criteria and process:**

For consideration, applicants must electronically submit their application (formatted in PDF or MS Word files) as an e-mail attachment to the Co-chair of the Student Awards Committee, Tiggy Grillo at [tgrillo@wildlifehealthaustralia.com.au](mailto:tgrillo@wildlifehealthaustralia.com.au) The application should include the following documents:

- a) 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, figures and tables should be separate from main text. A maximum of 3 tables and 3 figures can be presented in no more than 6 pages. The title page, figures and tables should be separate from main text.

Overview of SRRA scoring criteria:

- **Title:** The title accurately reflects the work performed in the study.
- **Abstract:** The abstract concisely and clearly summarizes the study.
- **Introduction:** The introduction provides sufficient yet concise background and clearly states study hypothesis(es) and/or objectives.
- **Methods:** Methods are adequate to test hypothesis(es) and address objectives of the study.
- **Results:** Results (including tables and figures) are clearly presented and agree with methods of the study.
- **Discussion:** Conclusions and discussion are sound, logical, supported by the data presented, provide context for the study in relation to current knowledge and literature and do not extrapolate unnecessarily. Discussion should cover management implications of research, where appropriate.
- **References:** Appropriate references are included and cited to support factual statements in the manuscript, without redundant citations.

- b) A cover letter (max 1 page, font 10 or larger), written by the applicant, stating solely how the research relates to the WDA mission and why the research is innovative and significant.
- The **WDA mission** statement is available inside the back cover of the Journal of Wildlife Diseases or on the WDA website.
  - **Innovation** - the study involves an important novel approach or addresses a novel topic using new designs, methods, hypothesis.
  - **Significance** – the research relates to a significant problem in the wildlife health/wildlife disease arena with internationally recognized relevance or of extreme local/regional importance
- c) One letter of support from the faculty advisor indicating the advisor is well versed in the student's topic and the degree of student involvement in planning and execution of the research project.

d) Grounds for disqualification include:

- Summary of the research is > 10 pages excluding tables, figures, and references.
- > 3 tables; > 3 figures; total number of tables and figures presented over > 6 pages
- One of the three items is missing.
- Submission was received after deadline.
- Failure to secure status as a student member of the WDA at the time of application.

## 2. Wildlife Disease Association Graduate Student Scholarship Achievement Award (SSA)

**DEADLINE:** Applications must be received electronically no later than 26<sup>th</sup> February, 2021 [5pm in [West Samoa Time](#)].

This award acknowledges outstanding academic and research accomplishment, productivity, and future potential in pursuit of new knowledge in wildlife health or disease.

The scholarship has a minimum value of \$2,000 US, which can be used for fees, books, supplies, equipment and other educational expenses incurred by you as a student during the pursuit of your graduate degree, or to support travel to conference and is awarded annually to an outstanding student pursuing master's or doctoral degrees specializing in wildlife health and/or disease research. An additional \$1,500 is available to each winner, if they choose to use the funds to attend the annual international WDA conference. The maximum amount of \$3,500 can only be dispersed to the winner following delivery of related receipts for travel, lodging, registration and other conference-related expenses to the WDA treasurer. The two winners will also receive a 1-year membership to the WDA (Student or Regular Member Worldwide Online).

**Two WDA Graduate Student Scholarship Achievement Awards are available in 2021.**

### **APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY:**

Applicants must be **students** AND members of the WDA. WDA **student** definition: 1) enrolled in a graduate student program at least half-time, or 2) be participating full-time in an internship or residency program which is approved for credit towards board certification or graduate degree.

Applicants must be pursuing an advanced (graduate) degree (e.g. PhD, MSc, internship, residency) at the time of application. To be considered, the candidate must have completed a four-year baccalaureate degree. The candidate should be committed to leadership, scholarship, and service in the wildlife health profession.

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.

### **APPLICATION CRITERIA AND PROCESS:**

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(s) submitted to the Co-Chair of the Student Awards Committee, Tiggy Grillo at [tgrillo@wildlifehealthaustralia.com.au](mailto:tgrillo@wildlifehealthaustralia.com.au) Where possible, please combine documents into a single PDF document and attach to the email.

- a) Two letters of support, including one 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. Applications are scored on the basis of this letter addressing each of the qualities listed above. One point will be subtracted if the letter is poorly written (spelling errors, improper format, etc). Note: Letters can be sent directly to Tiggy Grillo at [tgrillo@wildlifehealthaustralia.com.au](mailto:tgrillo@wildlifehealthaustralia.com.au) (This is a decision for the person writing the letter). Students will **only** be notified if letters are **not** submitted by the deadline to complete their applications.
- b) A curriculum vitae demonstrating evidence of superior scholastic achievement and productivity. See overview of scoring criteria below. CVs should specifically list and describe:
  - Candidates must include a clear list of completed degrees (undergraduate, MSc, PhD) and residencies, indicating the date of completion or noting in progress.
  - An overall grade point average must be provided for either the most recently completed undergraduate degree OR veterinary degree (whichever of the two was most recently COMPLETED). Please provide as part of the list above. 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. It is the student's responsibility to have one calculated.
  - List all awards, scholarships and grants.
  - List all publications and presentations, including presentations at local, regional, national, or international scientific conferences or meetings communication, as well as publications in magazines / newsletters (e.g. non-peer reviewed articles), are evaluated based on number of professional presentations and non-peer reviewed publications. Authorship should be included.
  - List all peer-reviewed publications in scientific journals. Authorship must be included.

- c) 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. These allow the Student Awards Committee to verify the list of degrees and the GPA or equivalent provided. Student Awards Committee will not calculate overall GPAs based on your transcripts.
- d) Grounds for disqualification include:
- Items missing, including overall grade point average / conversion to grade point average
  - Submissions received beyond the deadline date.
  - Failure to secure status as a student member of the WDA at the time of application.

## **OVERVIEW OF SSA SCORING CRITERIA**

**Evaluation:** There are 5 categories upon which the candidate is evaluated. Each section receives a numerical score of 1-5 with **5=excellent, 4=above average, 3=average, 2=below average, and 1=unacceptable.** The highest total score for all sections will determine the winner of the scholarship. The maximum score possible is **33.**

### **I. Scholarship.**

**GPA:** Students should be scored for their GPA for *either* their veterinary degree or undergraduate degree (whichever of the two was most recently **COMPLETED**). GPA will only be considered for the most recent degree that was **COMPLETED**. If a GPA is not provided by an institution, it is the students' responsibility to have one calculated and provide information about the calculation.

**Number of degrees:** This category provides a score for the number of undergraduate or graduate degrees or residencies that have been **COMPLETED**.

**II. Awards/scholarships.** Students are scored on the number of grants, scholarships, and other awards received. Scores will be weighted depending on the level of education completed.

**III. Letters.** ONLY TWO LETTERS ARE SCORED. Any letter > 2 is not read or evaluated, as determined by the Committee Chair. Letters of recommendation are scored on the following criteria: 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/wildlife health. One point will be subtracted if the letter is poorly written (spelling errors, improper format, etc).

**IV. Communications.** Student's ability to communicate is evaluated based on number of professional (oral and/or poster) presentations – these include presentations at local, regional, national, or international scientific conferences or meetings, as well as publications in magazines / newsletters (e.g. non-peer reviewed articles). Authorship should be included. Scores will be weighted based on level of education completed and whether the student is a first author on the presentation or other contributing or non-presenting author.

**V. Research potential.** Students are scored by the number of peer-reviewed publications in scientific journals (do not count presentations in lay materials, websites, teaching notes, etc). Authorship must be included. Note: 'In press' publications are counted, however publications which have been 'submitted', 'In review' or 'In preparation' will NOT be counted. Scores will be weighted based on level of education completed and whether the student is a first author on the presentation or other contributing author.

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

**DEADLINE:** The deadline for submission of student abstracts to be considered for this award will be identical to the deadline set for the non-student abstracts. The deadline for the call for abstracts for oral and poster presentations is the 18<sup>th</sup> April 2021.

This award acknowledges outstanding student oral presentation of research findings at the annual international WDA conference. The overall winner of the Best Student Presentation Terry Amundsen Award receives a plaque and US\$350 (to offset conference expenses). The second-place winner (Honorable Mention) receives a plaque and US\$250 (to offset conference expenses).

#### **APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY:**

Applicants must be **students** AND members of the WDA **at the time abstracts are received**. WDA **student** definition: 1) enrolled in an undergraduate or graduate student program at least half-time, or 2) be participating full-time in an internship or residency program which is approved for credit towards board certification or graduate degree.

#### **APPLICATION CRITERIA AND PROCESS:**

To be considered for this award at the conference, eligible students **must submit an abstract and select YES to the following questions** on the abstract submission form available via the annual international WDA conference website ([CUENCA2020](#)) to have your abstract considered for the student oral presentation competition.

- Are you a student?^
- Are you a current member of the WDA?^
- Would you like to enter the WDA Student Presentation Award competition?

^ Student status and WDA membership status will be double checked. If you are not a student nor a WDA member at the time of abstract submission, your abstract will be considered for the general presentation session and will not be considered for this award.

In addition, the student (presenting author) must also give an oral presentation on their research to the annual international WDA conference audience in the student presentation session. If the student (presenting author) is not available to present, they must withdraw their abstract. Co-authors cannot give the presentation on behalf of the student presenting author, regardless of their student status.

The student abstract should follow the general abstract guidelines as outlined on the annual international WDA conference website. In addition, students submitting abstracts to be considered for the student presentation awards should read the **Student Abstract Scoring Criteria** (see pg 9 below) and **Oral / Poster Presentation Scoring Criteria** (see pg 10-11 below) prior to submitting an abstract. These criteria will be used to score abstract on a competitive basis to determine which will be chosen for the conference.

#### **\*\*\*PLEASE NOTE\*\*\***

- Students can submit as many abstracts as they like.
- A maximum of ONE abstract will be accepted per student for each presentation modality. (e.g. maximum of 1 oral presentation and 1 poster presentation per student). If a student has submitted multiple abstracts and multiple abstracts score high enough to be accepted for presentation, the top-ranking abstract will be selected.
- When the following options are available (*Oral presentation only*, *Poster presentation only* and *Either oral or poster presentation* – or similarly worded options), then please note the following: If the submitting author selects ‘*an oral presentation only*’, the abstract will not be considered for a poster presentation. If ‘*a poster presentation only*’ is selected, the abstract will not be considered for an oral presentation. If the ‘*Either oral or poster presentation*’ option is selected, the abstract will first be considered for an oral presentation. If the abstract is not selected for an oral presentation, it will be considered equally with all other abstracts submitted for poster presentations.
- If you indicate that you wish for your abstract to be considered for the student competition and it is not selected, your abstract will NOT be considered for presentation for the general sessions.

#### 4. Wildlife Disease Association Student Poster Award

**DEADLINE:** The deadline for submission of student abstracts to be considered for this award will be identical to the deadline set for the non-student abstracts. The deadline for the call for abstracts for oral and poster presentations is the 18<sup>th</sup> April 2021.

This award acknowledges outstanding student poster presentation of research findings at the annual international WDA conference. The overall winner of the Best Student Poster Presentation receives a plaque and US\$350 (to offset conference expenses). The second-place winner (Honorable Mention) receives a plaque and US\$350 (to offset conference expenses).

#### **APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY:**

Applicants must be *students* AND members of the WDA at the time abstracts are received. WDA *student* definition: 1) enrolled in an undergraduate or graduate student program at least half-time, or 2) be participating full-time in an internship or residency program which is approved for credit towards board certification or graduate degree.

#### **APPLICATON CRITERIA AND PROCESS:**

To be considered for this award at the conference, eligible students **must submit an abstract and select YES to the following questions** on the abstract submission form available via the annual international WDA conference website ([CUENCA2020](#)) to have your abstract considered for the student oral presentation competition.

- Are you a student?^
- Are you a current member of the WDA?^
- Would you like to enter the WDA Student Presentation Award competition?

^ Student status and WDA membership status will be double checked. If you are not a student nor a WDA member at the time of abstract submission, your abstract will be considered for the general presentation session and will not be considered for this award.

In addition, the student must be available to present their research to the annual international WDA conference audience in the student poster presentation session. If the student (presenting author) is not available to present, they must withdraw their abstract. Co-authors cannot present on behalf of the student presenting author, regardless of their student status.

The student abstract should follow the general abstract guidelines as outlined on the annual international WDA conference website. In addition, students submitting abstracts to be considered for the student presentation awards should read the **Student Abstract Scoring Criteria** (see pg 9 below) **and Oral / Poster Presentation Scoring Criteria** (see pg 10-11 below) prior to submitting an abstract. These criteria will be used to score abstract on a competitive basis to determine which will be chosen for the conference. These criteria will be used to score abstract on a competitive basis to determine which will be chosen for the conference.

#### **\*\*\*PLEASE NOTE\*\*\***

1. Students can submit as many abstracts as they like.
2. A maximum of ONE abstract will be accepted per student for each presentation modality (e.g. maximum of 1 oral presentation and 1 poster presentation per student). If a student has submitted multiple abstracts and multiple abstracts score high enough to be accepted for presentation, the top-ranking abstract will be selected.
3. Only the top 30 poster abstracts will be eligible to be judged at the conference for the Poster Presentation Award. Student abstracts that do not make the top 30, may still be selected to present at the conference but will not be judged for the student poster presentation award. You will be notified as to whether or not your poster has been 1) accepted for presentation and 2) if it has been selected for judging at the conference.
4. WDA aims to accept as many poster presentations as possible. However, as poster space may be limited, not all poster abstracts will be accepted.
5. If you indicate that you wish for your abstract to be considered for the student competition and it is not selected, your abstract will NOT be considered for presentation for the general sessions.

**Note: In 2021, posters will be presented via audiovisual screens, so all poster presenters will need to submit their poster as a PDF or Similar to the conference organizers (details TBC).**

OPTIONAL: STUDENTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO BRING AT LEAST 8 COPIES OF AN A4 VERSION OF THEIR POSTER TO PROVIDE TO JUDGES IF REQUESTED.



# ABSTRACT and PRESENTATION SCORING CRITERIA

## *Student ORAL / POSTER ABSTRACT Scoring Criteria*

- A. Student abstracts which do not present a scientific study organized in the manner listed in criteria (under C) are not eligible. **Subheadings are not necessary, but each of these topics must be addressed in the abstract.**
- B. Abstracts will be divided into oral and poster presentations groups for scoring. Those not awarded an oral presentation but who indicate in their submission that both oral and poster presentation options are acceptable will be further considered in the poster scoring lists.
- C. Students will be scored on the following criteria with a numerical score: 5 (excellent), 4 (very good), 3 (good), 2 (average), 1 (poor), 0 (unacceptable)
- 1. Background** – the abstract must provide an adequate introduction and background to set the stage for the study. **(max 5 points)**
  - 2. Hypothesis or Objectives** – the abstract must list hypothesis(es) to be tested (as applicable) or the objectives of the research, in a clear and concise manner. **(max 5 points)**
  - 3. Materials and Methods** – the abstract must present the methods used in a clear and concise manner. The methods must be adequate to test hypothesis(es) and address objectives of study. **(max 5 points)**
  - 4. Results** – the abstract must report results that relate directly to methodology and are presented in a clear and concise manner. **(max 5 points)**
  - 5. Conclusions** – the abstract must include conclusions that are sound, logical, and supported by data presented in the results section. Management implications should be presented, where appropriate. **(max 5 points)**
- D. Two additional criteria with a different scoring system will be assessed: 3 (meets the criteria very strongly), 2 (meets the criteria to some extent), 1 (meets the criteria in a limited way), 0 (does not meet the criteria)
- 6. Innovation** - the study involves an important novel approach or addresses a novel topic using new designs, methods, hypothesis, etc. **(max 3 points)**
  - 7. Significance** – the research relates to a significant problem in the wildlife health/wildlife disease arena with internationally recognized relevance or of extreme local/regional importance. **(max 3 points)**
- E. Criteria for refusal of abstracts:
- Abstracts that do not conform to submission guidelines listed above are to be refused.
  - Abstracts that score 2 or more ZEROS or are below a total of 6 points for the first 5 criteria (total of 25 points) are to equally be excluded from oral or poster presentation regardless of classification on criteria 6-7.

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- **Students can obtain a maximum of 25 points from criteria 1-5 plus an additional 6 points for criteria 6 and 7 to a grand total of 31 points. A final score will be calculated as the mean of the individual judge's scores.**

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### **Student ORAL PRESENTATION Scoring Criteria**

- A. Students will be scored on the following criteria with a numerical score: 5 (excellent), 4 (very good), 3 (good), 2 (average), 1 (poor), 0 (unacceptable)
1. **Background** – student provides adequate introduction and background to set the stage for the study. **(max 5 points)**
  2. **Hypothesis/Objectives** – hypothesis(es) to be tested and objectives of study are presented clearly and concisely. **(max 5 points)**
  3. **Methods** – the student presents the methods clearly and concisely and the methods are adequate to test hypothesis(es) and address objectives of study. **(max 5 points)**
  4. **Results** – the student presents the results in a clear and concise manner and the results are directly related to methodology. **(max 5 points)**
  5. **Conclusions** – the student includes conclusions that are sound, logical, and supported by data presented in results section. **(max 5 points)**
  6. **Visual Aids** – visual aids/slides are well organized, balanced, logical, easily read and interpreted, and contain sufficient contrast to project well to a large audience. **(max 5 points)**
  7. **Style and student “knowledge”** – delivery is clear, audible, with proper elocution, and with suitable tone and contact to engage the audience. **(max 5 points)**
- B. Two additional criteria with a different scoring system will be assessed:
8. **Innovation/Significance** – the study involves a novel approach or addresses a novel topic, and/or relates to a significant problem in the wildlife health/wildlife disease arena. **(3-meets the criteria very strongly, 2-meets the criteria to some extent, 1-meets the criteria in a limited way, 0-does not meet the criteria)**
  9. **TIME** – students have 12 minutes for the presentation, leaving 3 minutes for questions from the audience. Speakers running over the allotted time will be penalized. **(3 points if considered to fulfill this criterion, 0 points otherwise).**

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**Students can obtain a maximum of 35 points from criteria 1-7 plus an additional 6 points for criteria 8 and 9 to a grand total of 41 points. A final score will be calculated as the mean of the individual judge’s scores.**

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### *Student POSTER PRESENTATION Scoring Criteria*

- A. During the Student Poster Presentations, students are requested to be by their poster to answer questions and interact with the judges.
- B. Students will be scored on the following criteria with a numerical score: 5 (excellent), 4 (very good), 3 (good), 2 (average), 1 (poor), 0 (unacceptable)
1. **Background** – the poster provides adequate introduction and background to set the stage for the study. **(max 5 points)**
  2. **Hypothesis/Objectives** – the poster lists the hypothesis(es) to be tested and objectives of study are presented in a clear and concise manner. **(max 5 points)**
  3. **Methods** – the poster presents the methods clearly and concisely and the methods are adequate to test hypothesis(es) and address objectives of study. **(max 5 points)**
  4. **Results** – the poster presents the results in a clear and concise manner and the results are directly related to methodology. **(max 5 points)**
  5. **Conclusions** – the poster includes conclusions that are sound, logical, and supported by data presented in results section. **(max 5 points)**
  6. **Visual Aids** – the poster is well organized, logical, easily read and interpreted, and figures/images/tables are adequate, large enough, appropriate, and of high quality. **(max 5 points)**
  7. **Style and student “knowledge”** – poster’s style is in accordance with general peer-reviewed manuscript format and overall is balanced and pleasing to the eye. The student is interactive and demonstrates sound knowledge of the contents of the poster. **(max 5 points)**
- a) One additional criterion with a different scoring system will be assessed:
8. **Innovation/Significance** – the study involves a novel approach or addresses a novel topic, and/or relates to a significant problem in the wildlife health/wildlife disease arena. **(3-meets the criteria very strongly, 2-meets the criteria to some extent, 1-meets the criteria in a limited way, 0-does not meet the criteria)**

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**Students can obtain a maximum of 35 points from criteria 1-7 plus an additional 3 points for criteria 8 to a grand total of 38 points. A final score will be calculated as the mean of the individual judge’s scores.**

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## 5. IAAAM-WDA Student Award Description

### **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. The winner will also receive a 1-year membership to the WDA (Student or Regular Member Worldwide Online).

### **POINTS OF CONTACT:**

- IAAAM: Board Member for Education 2020-2021 = Allison Tuttle ([atuttle@mysticaquarium.org](mailto:atuttle@mysticaquarium.org)); Student Liaison Committee 2020-2021 = Ashley McGrew. Weblink for IAAAM contacts: <https://www.iaaam.org/about>
- WDA: Chair of the Student Awards Committee 2020-2021 = Tiggy Grillo ([tgrillo@wildlifehealthaustralia.com.au](mailto:tgrillo@wildlifehealthaustralia.com.au)) and Michelle Verant ([mverant@gmail.com](mailto:mverant@gmail.com)). Weblink for WDA Student Awards contacts: <https://www.wildlifedisease.org/wda/STUDENTS/StudentAwards.aspx>

### **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 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **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.