Injury and Violence Paper Prize for Undergraduate, Graduate and Professional Students

*Sponsored by the Program for Injury Prevention, Education and Research (PIPER) Program*

Guidelines for Authors
2016 Award

**Purpose of the prize**
The Program for Injury Prevention, Education and Research (PIPER) created this paper prize to recognize students from the Mountain West region who are conducting important research in the injury field and to stimulate interest in injury and violence research.

**Eligibility**
- Any student enrolled (since June 2015) in any accredited bachelors’, graduate, or professional degree-granting program in any school in the Mountain West region is eligible to apply. This includes degree-granting programs offered through distance education.
- The Mountain West region includes: Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming.
- Residents, fellows, or postdoctoral students are not eligible unless they are also enrolled in an eligible degree-granting program.
- Eligible applicants may have graduated from the degree-granting program, but must have been enrolled as a student in the program during the 2015-2016 academic year.

**Pertinent subject matter**
Papers must describe *the results of a research project or program or policy evaluation* on any injury topic (intentional or unintentional) with public health or health care implications. Eligible papers can address injuries affecting any population or age group. Examples of relevant topics include but are not limited to:

- **Unintentional injury** including falls; fires and burns; motor vehicle crashes; pedestrian injuries; poisoning, including prescription drug overdose; product-related injuries; sports and recreational injuries; and work-related injury.
- **Violence**, including child maltreatment, domestic violence, youth violence, sexual violence, workplace violence, school violence, bullying, other forms of violence.

Papers may focus on the epidemiology, prevention, rehabilitation, acute care, or biomechanics of injury. Literature reviews are not eligible. Both quantitative and qualitative research papers are acceptable. Policy analyses are eligible, but opinion pieces or advocacy essays are not eligible.

Papers that have been published in either an on-line or paper journal or online in advance of journal publication may *not* be submitted for the prize.
Application Instructions

- **Required cover letter** - Applicants should send a cover letter with the submitted paper. The cover letter must state that the research described by the paper and the writing of the paper were both performed primarily by the student applicant. If there are other authors on the paper in addition to the applicant, these individuals must also sign the letter attesting to the applicant’s primary responsibility for both the research and the authorship of the paper. We also require a letter signed by the student’s faculty advisor, certifying that the student was a student during the required time period and that this work is the student’s own work.

- **Title page** - Include (1) a concise and descriptive title; (2) full list of all co-authors and their degrees and affiliations, (3) full name of applicant, current degrees held, the name of the degree-granting program at the time of the research; (3) name, postal and e-mail addresses for the applicant; (4) name, rank, department, institution, and postal and e-mail addresses for the student’s faculty advisor.

- **Abstract** - An abstract is required. Structured abstracts (i.e., those organized by headings, e.g., Objectives, Methods, Results, and Conclusions) are preferred. Abstracts are limited to 500 words or less.

- **Paper** – Papers are limited to 5,000 words or less. Figures, tables, abstract and citations are not included in the word limit. Applicants should use double line spacing and leave 1-inch margins and a font of 11 or 12. The paper should have clear sections with subheadings. Examples of potential subheadings are outlined below, but different paper formats are allowed:

  
  I. Background & Significance / Introduction / Problem Statement  
  Clearly state the problem that the research addresses. Use the scholarly literature, citing past studies and theory (if relevant), to describe what is known about the problem. Where are there shortcomings or gaps in our current knowledge base about the problem? How does the study address these shortcomings?

  II. Objectives/ Aims/Research Questions/Hypotheses  
  What questions does the study purport to address? Are there any hypotheses? If so, does the literature cited in the previous section support the hypotheses?

  III. Methodology/ Methods  
  This section must describe the research design and procedures, including as applicable: sample (eligibility criteria, sample size, recruitment), description of data collection instruments (including what is known about reliability and validity), study procedures, protection of human subjects, and data analysis procedures.

  IV. Results  
  This section must include a clear description of all findings that are relevant to the research question. Tables or figures may be used to enhance the presentation of findings. Applicants should not simply repeat tabular information in the text, but rather use the text to amplify or summarize the information the table or figure presents.

  V. Conclusions/Interpretation/Discussion  
  Comment on what was learned from the study results. Was the research question answered or were hypotheses supported? If not, what were the barriers to achieving the aims? How were the results similar to or different from what
others have found? How do the author(s) interpret what was learned from this study? Almost all studies have limitations. Were there limitations to the study methodology or to the interpretation of the findings? If so, describe. How might these be addressed in future studies?

- **Citations & References** - Any material included in the paper that did not originate with the author(s) must be cited and those citations fully referenced at the end of the paper. Applicants may choose from the different specific citation or reference styles (e.g., AMA, APA), but the format of the citations or reference entries must be consistent throughout the paper and reference list.

**Where to send papers**
Send an electronic copy to Sara Brandspigel at sara.brandspigel@ucdenver.edu with the subject line, “Student Paper Prize Submission”.

**Submission deadline**
All applications must be received in full by **June 1, 2016**. Awards will be announced by **July 15, 2016**.

**Review procedures**
Several reviewers will rate the papers according to the importance and the quality of the research and the paper. Additionally, writing style, clarity, and adherence to formatting requirements will be assessed and considered in the paper’s final score. Please note that papers that fail completely to adhere to the paper format described above will be disqualified. The award will go to the author of the highest ranked paper that meets all the selection criteria. If two or more papers are rated as excellent or above average and are equally ranked, authors of each of the papers will receive the prize. If no paper is ranked as excellent or above average by the consensus of reviewers, no award will be given.

**Awarding the prize**
Each prize winner will be awarded $250 and will receive a plaque. All applicants will receive notification of the results of the review of applications no later than July 15. The award will be presented at a PIPER seminar on the Anschutz Medical Campus in Aurora, Colorado or, if the winner is not able to attend the seminar, it will be mailed to him/her. PIPER will not be able to cover transportation costs to receive the award. The awardee will also be announced via our website and university communications, with biographical information and photograph of the awardee.

**Do you have questions?** Contact Sara Brandspigel at sara.brandspigel@ucdenver.edu