



## RMBS Student Paper Contest

The RMBS sponsors each year a Student Paper Contest, as an incentive to students to actively participate to the conference as well as for providing them with a very good educational experience.

Participation to the Student Paper Contest is voluntary, and when submitting the paper in final format, the student **MUST** specify his or her intention to participate in the contest.

The Student Paper Contest is divided into three sections:

- **Written Competition**, with a 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place;
- **Presentation Competition**, with a 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place;
- **Poster Competition**, with a 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place.

If at least four entries per category exist, the awards are assigned separately for:

- **Undergraduate and Master students**
- **Doctoral (Ph.D., M.D., Sc.D., etc.) students**

Four more awards are usually presented:

- **President's Award**
- **Conference Chairman Award**
- **Student Paper Contest Committee Award**
- **Paul Leonard Award** (for high school students).

### **General Rules**

The following general rules apply to all students participating in the Student Paper Contest:

1. To enter into the Student contest, the participant **MUST** be a student when the research is done, and report the results within a year after graduation.
2. It is not necessary for the students to be at the Awards Ceremony to be eligible for the award itself, but unless the student has a "just cause" for not being present, the students **MUST** be at the Awards Ceremony to receive the money associated with the award. If a student is not present at the ceremony and has no "just cause", he/she will receive only the Award certificate and a certificate valid toward part of the registration for the next conference, whereas the money will return to the Student Contest Fund. If the student has a "just cause" for not being at the Awards Ceremony (e.g., prearranged travel plans, or incoming project deadlines and/or finals exams), the attendance requirement is waived and the student would receive the money associated with the award. The student **MUST** however notify in advance any member of the Student Paper Contest Committee of his or her impossibility to attend the Awards Ceremony to still be eligible for the money associated with the award.



3. When submitting the paper, the following letters **MUST accompany the paper**:
  - a letter from the student(s) asking to be included in the student paper contest;
  - a letter **from the student(s) or the advisor specifying the program in which each of the student authors is enrolled** (undergraduate, Master, or Doctoral) **and the program graduation date**. The letter should also certify that the first author did more than 50% of the research reported in that paper.
4. The paper must be submitted as four copies, three of which go to the Student Paper Committee to be distributed to the judges.
5. If the work is a subset of a larger project for which multiple papers are submitted to RMBS, the authors should make clear to the reader which part of the project was conducted by the student author(s).
6. Each paper **MUST** be complete and including:
  - 250 word **MAXIMUM** abstract;
  - up to 5 Keywords;
  - **Introduction**, with a background or history of a particular problem that led to the research, experiment, or application described in the paper, with specific emphasis on the formulated hypothesis and its novelty;
  - **Materials & Methods**, with an overview of the research plan followed for the specific study to prove or disprove the formulated hypothesis;
  - **Results**, including only the most relevant one obtained during the study, and that support or disprove the hypothesis formulated with the reason why they are important;
  - **Discussion**, with a detailed analysis of the results, comparing the formulated hypothesis and what has been found in the literature;
  - **Conclusions**, stating the final results, emphasizing the most important points and directing the reader to relevancies for other area;
  - **References**, formatted according to ISA/IEEE standards (see the template in the author kit).

Obviously, the expectations for a Doctoral (Ph.D., M.D., Sc.D., etc.) student are much higher than those for the other students, so the judging will reflect the educational level of the student: the depth of the contents should be different depending on the level of the student, especially in the introduction, discussion and conclusions, where a Doctoral (Ph.D., M.D., Sc.D., etc.) student should be able to do a "critical" review of the literature and study results, whereas a Undergraduate or Masters student could just report what has been found. However, every student should write for a Bachelor of Science level audience so that a student considering bioengineering can use these papers to find topics of interest for their personal work. Authors should minimize use of any jargon or acronyms which are not commonly known in most engineering disciplines.

**Non-compliance with any of these rules is reason for disqualification.**



## **Notes:**

If the quality of papers is lower than expected, the Student Paper Contest Committee reserves the right not to present one or more of the awards.

The Written Awards are given to the first author of the selected papers, the Presentation and Poster Awards are given to the student presenting.

The awards are **independent of each other** except the special awards, so it is possible for a student to *win more than one award*. Independent of the written competition ranking, any student is eligible for a poster or presentation award, as long as he/she is an author of the paper being presented (it could be an author different from the first). **The special awards are given to students that did not win any other awards.**

Each paper is reviewed by at least one member of the Student Paper Contest Committee and by three other independent judges. However, faculty cannot rank student papers from their own school.

Three independent judges are in charge of the Poster competition: they talk to each student and select the winners, then provide the names of the winners to the Student Paper Committee. The identity of these judges shall be unknown to the poster presenters.

Any RMBS Board Member participates in ranking the students' presentations for the award. However, faculty cannot rank student presentations from their own school.

The President, the Conference Chairman, and the Student Paper Contest Committee Award winners are subjectively selected between all the students that qualify and the awards are given to students that did not win any other awards.

The **Paul Leonard Award** is open to any high school student interested in the fields of biomedical sciences instrumentation, willing to attend the conference, submitting a written paper and presenting his/her project (as a poster or presentation). The high school students have usually to follow the rules for the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair ([www.sciserv.org](http://www.sciserv.org)), so no additional requirements are imposed on them from RMBS.