

THE SUSAN P. BAKER STUDENT PAPER PRIZE

*Sponsored by
The University of North Carolina Injury Prevention Research Center*

Guidelines for Authors 2009 Award

Purpose of the prize Since 1991, the UNC Injury Prevention Research Center (UNC IPRC) has awarded an annual student research paper prize to recognize students for the conduct of important and high quality research in the injury field. The award was renamed the Susan P. Baker Paper Prize in 1999 subsequent to Professor Baker's honorary doctorate conferred by UNC in 1998. Professor Baker is an internationally renowned epidemiologist who has been an important leader in the injury field for several decades, and, among other notable achievements, is the founding director of the Johns Hopkins Center for Injury Research and Policy. To learn more about Dr. Baker, visit: http://faculty.jhsph.edu/Default.cfm?faculty_id=32.

Eligibility Any student who has been enrolled for any length of time since June 2008 in an undergraduate, graduate, or professional school degree-granting program in any North Carolina school is eligible to apply. This includes students in distance education programs based in NC institutions. This does not include residents, fellows, or postdoctoral students unless the student is also enrolled in a degree-granting program. **(Note: a student may have graduated from the degree-granting program, but must have been enrolled in the program during the past academic year.)**

Pertinent subject matter Papers must describe *the results of a research project or program evaluation* on any topic of intentional or unintentional injury prevention with public health or health care implications, such as: domestic violence, youth violence, child abuse, farming or other work-related injuries, motor vehicle crashes, pedestrian injuries, fires and burns, falls, poisoning, sports or recreational injuries. Papers may focus on the epidemiology, prevention, rehabilitation, acute care, or biomechanics of injury. Literature reviews and papers describing the development and implementation of programs or policies will not be considered eligible unless the focus of the paper is the evaluation of an injury prevention program or a policy analysis. Both quantitative and qualitative research papers are acceptable.

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 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. *This letter must also be signed by the student's faculty advisor, even if the advisor is not an author on the paper.*

Previously published papers or papers accepted for publication Papers that have been accepted for publication, or published may **not** be submitted for the prize. Papers that have been **submitted** for publication are eligible.

Title page Include (1) a concise and descriptive title; (2) 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 all authors, including the applicant; (4) name, rank, department, institution, and postal and e-mail addresses for the student's faculty advisor.

Abstract An abstract is required. Abstracts that are organized by headings (e.g., Objectives, Methods, Results, and Conclusions) are preferred.

Paper Format Applicants should use double line spacing and leave 1-inch margins. These subheadings should be used for clearer presentation and in accordance with preparing a paper for publication:

1. 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? Is there a hypothesis or are there hypotheses? If so, does the literature cited in the previous section support the hypothesis or 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 aims achieved? 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 a citation or reference style (e.g., AMA, APA), but the format of the citations or reference entries must be consistent throughout the paper and reference list.

Review procedures Several reviewers will rate each of the five sections outlined above based on the degree to which the paper fulfills the criteria for that section. *The winning paper must receive an above average rating on all sections*. Also, 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 across reviewers, no award will be given.

Awarding the prize Each prize winner will be awarded \$250 and will receive a plaque. The winner(s) will receive notification in early November. Awards will be presented at one of the UNC IPRC seminars in winter 2010.

Where to Send Papers

Send an electronic copy to Karen Moore (Karen_Moore@unc.edu)

AND

Send a hardcopy of the signed cover letter (original signatures) to:
Karen Moore, MPH, Assistant Director of Education and Outreach
UNC Injury Prevention Research Center
Bank of America Building, Suite 500
137 East Franklin Street, CB# 7505
Chapel Hill, NC 27599—7505

Submission Deadline –

All applications must be received in full by **October 15, 2009**

Do you have questions? Contact Karen Moore (karen_moore@unc.edu)