MASSACHUSETTS MEDICAL SOCIETY
Every physician matters, each patient counts.

Application Form

Essay contest topic: Any topic that piques the student's curiosity is fair game for historical research and may be eye-opening and inspiring to others. Students are encouraged to consider the history behind topics of current interest, such as the role of race in health, health care, and training of health care providers; discrimination of any kind; and stigma of any kind.

Description: Understanding historical context is an important aspect of medical education. In 2007, the Massachusetts Medical Society (MMS) established the Medical Student Essay Award Contest to honor a student for the best research essay related to the historyof medicine or public health since the initiation of the MMS in 1781.

Authors of essays are strongly encouraged to use primary sources. Students are invited (but not required) to consult, either in person or by phone, with members of the Committee on History to discuss the formulation of their research question, as well as sources that might be investigated. Potential online sources include the Annual Orations of the MMS, the content of the *New England Journal of Medicine* and its precursors, historical archives, and association proceedings.

The essay should be original, tightly argued, and well-referenced, and it will be judged on scholarship, originality, and clarity of expression. Photographs and illustrations may be included with the essay.

AI tools are allowed for research purposes but not for composition. Please list any AI tools used in research. While AI may provide a short-cut to finding resources, editing, and writing, it also may deprive the student of the joy of discovery, the rewards of investigation. AI may also deprive readers of the enjoyment of the particular student's literary style and voice. All essays will be scanned for plagiarism and the use of AI in writing.

Eligibility: The award is available to a Massachusetts medical student who is a member of the Massachusetts Medical Society.

Entry Requirements: The essay must not exceed 3,000 words (not including citations or footnotes) and may be submitted by e-mail or printed copy. A one-paragraph abstract is due by November 29, 2026, and the final essay is due by January 10, 2027 to Leon Barzin, Massachusetts Medical Society, 860 Winter Street, Waltham, MA 02451, email: lbarzin@mms.org. **A copy of this form must be signed by you** and provided to the Society by the submission deadline.

Signed: _____ Date: _____