

Cyprus Institute of Neurology & Genetics - Cyprus School of Molecular Medicine

Genovation Competition for Graduates and Undergraduates

The Cyprus Institute of Neurology & Genetics and the Cyprus School of Molecular Medicine are pleased to announce their new competition named **Genovation**, aimed at students (undergraduates/postgraduates) as well as graduates of disciplines which are associated with the activities of the Institute. The winner of the competition will have the opportunity to be hosted by Laboratories and Departments of the CING during the summer months and to experience from first-hand the high caliber work conducted by the Institute's leading scientists in the process of diagnosing and researching hereditary diseases. The winner will be treated to the opportunities usually reserved only for the MSc and PhD students of the Cyprus School of Molecular Medicine. In addition, the winner will also be entitled to a tuition scholarship worth €500 in the event that he/she applies to the CSMM and is successfully accepted and registered onto one of the School's seven postgraduate programs.

Competition Description: To enter the competition, students must address the following topic in a written essay of no more than **400 words in English**:

A year ago the UK legalised the use of donor mitochondrial DNA for in-vitro fertilisations, allowing the creation of embryos who can potentially have three biological parents. In particular, in cases where the mother is carrying a mitochondrial disease, her mitochondria are removed from the egg and are replaced by the healthy donors' mitochondria. IVF is performed on the modified egg with the paternal sperm and then the zygote is transplanted to the uterus. This results in three biological parents: the father, mitochondria donor mother, and the embryo carrier mother. What is your opinion? Which can be the future applications of this technique, having in mind that science is constantly progressing? How will this affect our society?

Criteria: Answers should be concise and will be evaluated on the student's ability for **critical thinking** of a topic which has both scientific significance but also ethical implications.

Deadline: All applications must be submitted electronically to the CSMM by **Monday 11 April 2016**. Entries received after the deadline will not be considered. The essay must be presented in Word format and must be accompanied by the official CSMM entry form. Both documents must be submitted via email to: **csmm@cing.ac.cy**

Entrants: The Competition welcomes entries from undergraduate students as well as graduates.

Word limit: Maximum word limit of 400 words. Any text over this amount will not be considered.

Prize: The winner of the competition will be awarded a tuition scholarship amount of €500 plus a work placement with the CING with a maximum duration of 3 months (to take place during the period June, July, August). The summer placement must be carried out either in the year that it is awarded or in the following year at the latest.

Terms & Conditions: The tuition scholarship amount of €500 cannot be exchanged for cash or for any other prize. The scholarship amount will ONLY be awarded if the winner of the competition applies to the CSMM, undergoes all the admissions processes of the CSMM, is successful in their application and proceeds to register onto one of the School's seven postgraduate programs. The CSMM and CING reserve the right not to offer the scholarship under any other circumstances. The winner will have up to two academic years in which they will be allowed to redeem their scholarship prize. For example the winner of the 2016 Genovation competition will have to apply, be accepted and register with the CSMM during one of the two academic years immediately following - i.e. academic year 2016-17 or academic year 2017-18. Once enrolled as a CSMM student, the winner maintains the right to apply for further scholarships available to CSMM students.

Information: Tel: 22392843 Email: csmm@cing.ac.cy