

## **Guidelines for Ron Weisman Graduate Student Awards Competition**

### **Comparative Cognition Society**

**(Originally Adopted by CCS Executive committee October 19, 2012; Amended April 17, 2015)**

#### **Guidelines to Identify Candidates:**

##### **Best Paper/Poster Award:**

1. Graduate students will be considered for an award only if he/she submits a long abstract (details below).
2. Any current graduate student (in good standing eligible for competition).
3. If possible, all competition papers/posters will be scheduled in the same paper/poster session (or otherwise identified).
4. The student submits a full-page (long) abstract, including results and a figure(s); essentially, the abstract needs to be a mini manuscript.
5. The supervisor must be in agreement that the student be considered for the competition and signs off on the veracity of the abstract and its contents.
6. Each student can only enter into one competition, either paper or poster.

##### **Pre-screening Criteria to Evaluate Candidates:**

1. A 5-point scale will be used to evaluate specific attributes of presentation such as:
  - a. General scientific merit;
  - b. Innovation/novelty of experimental hypotheses;
  - c. Clarity of presentation in the abstract;
  - d. Potential of study for eliciting future research;
  - e. Soundness of conclusions, based on results;
2. The top 5 entries for each of the paper and poster entries will constitute the short list and will be entered into the final competition at CO3. Students will be notified via e-mail that they are "finalists" in their respective competitions.

##### **Criteria to Evaluate Candidates:**

1. A 5-point scale will be used to evaluate specific attributes of presentation such as:
  - a. General scientific merit;
  - b. Innovation/novelty of experimental hypotheses;
  - c. Clarity of presentation (speaker's "mechanics" of presenting);
  - d. Potential of study for eliciting future research;
  - e. Soundness of conclusions, based on results;
  - f. Speaker's/Poster presenter's ability to field questions;
  - g. Overall presentation, including all of the above criteria.
2. Individual presenter with the highest score wins the best graduate student award for spoken or poster presentation. We may also give an Honorable Mention for another candidate.

##### **Coordination of Judging:**

1. All members of the grad student awards committee will attend the graduate student presentation session and poster session to serve as judges. In the event that a committee member is a mentor/co-author of a candidate for an award, the committee member will not judge the individual grad student with whom a potential conflict exists.
2. Back-up volunteer judges will be available from meeting attendees, in case a committee member is unable to attend the annual meeting, or, for whatever reason, is unable to attend

the specific competition session.

3. Judges will be provided with scoring sheets that will be completed during the sessions, and returned to the Awards Committee Chair at the close of the spoken session and the poster session.
4. The Committee Chair and one other committee member will tally votes and identify top award and honorable mention recipients.
5. If not already attending, the award winners will be invited to the banquet.
6. Winners will be announced at the banquet and receive awards at that time.

## **Application for Best Student Paper or Poster Competition**

1. Name and e-mail:
2. Stage in program (i.e., M.Sc., Ph.D., year)
3. Endorsing supervisor name and e-mail:
4. By submitting this application, you, the applicant (student) verify that you are willing to participate in a separate Paper/Poster Competition session, and that you are only submitting one application for consideration for best student paper or poster.
5. By endorsing this application, the supervisor endorses the abstract and its contents, verifies that the applicant is in the stage of their program reported, is currently a graduate student in good academic standing, and is in agreement that the student may be considered for the competition.
6. Please submit, on a separate page, a 1-page long abstract, complete with figure(s) and results, using 12 point Times font and no less than .75 inch margins.