



British Society of Rehabilitation Medicine

Promoting quality through
education and standards

Philip Nichols Prize

A Prize for Original Research

Value: £500

The prize was established in 1991 and commemorates the name of Philip Nichols (1923-1979), a father of British Rehabilitation Medicine.

Philip Nichols was very influential in the development of the Specialty of Rehabilitation Medicine. He was Chairman of the Royal College of Physicians Committee on Rehabilitation, President of the Section of Rheumatology and Rehabilitation of the Royal Society of Medicine, Adviser in Rehabilitation to the Chief Medical Officer of the Department of Health and Social Security, and President of the Society for Research in Rehabilitation. Munk's Roll describes Philip Nichols as a physician who "excelled, giving unstinted attention and compassion to patients, encouragement, opportunity and responsibility to the professions supplementary to medicine, and scrupulous guidance to his students." Philip Nichols' Rehabilitation Medicine career began at Headley Court and during his time in the RAF he pioneered the use of technical workshops for the rehabilitation of skilled individuals. He is widely known for his work at Mary Marlborough Lodge (MML) where he helped to pioneer gardening as an approach to assessment and treatment for disability. MML expanded and developed into a national resource. This was recognised when it was designated as one of the first Demonstration Centres for Rehabilitation in 1973. Philip Nichols' clinical interests were also reflected in his research. His reputation as an outstanding clinician and excellent communicator grew and in 1972 the DHSS established a rehabilitation research unit under his direction. Latterly he undertook the founding editorship of 'International Journal of Rehabilitation Medicine'.

The above is a brief snapshot of a man whose loss was widely felt in the developing specialty of Rehabilitation – it is fitting therefore that this Prize is offered in his memory.

The Philip Nichols Prize is awarded annually on a competitive basis and is awarded for excellence. Trainees and newly appointed consultants (3 years or less), who are BSRM members, are eligible to apply. In the case of consultants, the work submitted must have been undertaken whilst a trainee.

Submissions must describe original research within the context of the field and specialty of Rehabilitation Medicine. It is anticipated that this will be a discursive essay describing the research and its significance to Rehabilitation Medicine. A copy or near copy of a previously published scientific paper is not acceptable. The applicant should have made a substantial personal contribution to the research described and should clarify which parts of the research others have contributed to.

Entries should be in essay format and between 5,000 & 7,500 words and should demonstrate:

- A solid understanding of research skills.
- Scientific rigour, including suitable discussion of strengths and weaknesses, a suitable critical appraisal of the existing literature and what steps authors have taken to ensure that their knowledge of the literature is complete, eg details of their search technique.
- An appreciation of the relevance of the research to the development of Rehabilitation Medicine.

President: Professor Lynne Turner-Stokes | Registered charity number 293196

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No more than one submission per author per year will be accepted.

Submissions will, in the first instance, be peer reviewed by a relevant independent panel member after which feedback will be provided to authors who may wish to revise their submission prior to formal adjudication.

Successful authors will be invited to present their work at a national meeting of the BSRM.

The closing date for submissions is **31 December**. It remains the right of BSRM not to award the prize if no application of sufficient merit is made.

Submissions should be sent to prizes@bsrm.co.uk by the closing date using the subject header of Philip Nichols Prize Submission. Previous successful submissions and further information are available on the Prizes section of the BSRM website (www.bsrm.org.uk).

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