

ANNOUNCEMENT: THE LAWRENCE-BRENNAN INAUGURAL ESSAY COMPETITION

The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatry (RANZCP) and the Medico-Legal Society of Queensland (MLSQ) are co-funding an academic essay prize that would be awarded annually and open to advanced trainees and recent Fellows within all medical and surgical sub-specialities and lawyers (Barristers and Solicitors) under 5 years admission.

The goal is to attract and promote thoughtful exploration of the ethical issues that are at the interface of medicine and the law.

The 2017 MLSQ conference title is, “*When Yes Means No*”. The conference topic recognizes that the process of garnering consent involves far more than asking a patient to sign a form of consent. Hence the inspiration for our essay.

We are asking candidates to write a 2000 word essay inspired by the quote:

“Consent has rough edges.”...From ‘Nutshell’ by Ian McEwan.

Please discuss issues pertaining to medical consent from the perspective of your own discipline with reference to relevant clinical issues, research or case law. Essays should be written in a style that is accessible to both lawyers and doctors.

We have three distinguished judges drawn from the senior ranks of medicine, law and academia.

Essay submissions should be emailed to Dr Josephine Sundin at jsundin@ozemail.com.au. All essays will be submitted anonymously to the Judges, so please attach a separate front sheet with your name, email address and contact phone number. The Judges will be provided with a standardised set of criteria for marking.

The closing date for essays is 17 July 2017.

The winner will be announced at the opening of the 2017 MLSQ conference on 18th August 2017. The winning essay will be published by the MLSQ.

The winner will receive a cheque for \$1000 and free registration at the MLSQ conference.