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**Mary J. Bridle  
First Research Award**

**Application Instructions**  
rev. 5/10

The purpose of the award is to foster scholarship and first research efforts within the occupational therapy community. The Mary J. Bridle Award provides an opportunity for occupational therapy students and new practitioners to prepare a research manuscript and have it reviewed by experts in the field. The winner of the award will be prepared to submit the manuscript to a professional journal with the goal of publication. Manuscripts may be either original research or critical reviews. The cash value of the award is \$250.00. It will be available annually but will be awarded only when manuscripts of sufficient caliber are submitted.

Applications must be emailed to [jhalterman@aotf.org](mailto:jhalterman@aotf.org) by October 1 each year. Curriculum vitae (CV) for each author must be included. For blinded review, the manuscript must not identify either the student or educational program with which s/he is associated. It is the applicant's responsibility to see that all identifying materials have been removed; failure to do so will disqualify the manuscript. The applicant's contact information should be provided in a cover letter which should also include definitive statements regarding each of the following:

1. When the study was initiated, and how it was related to the author's educational program at the time (e.g. "the manuscript was a required clinical research project during fieldwork," "the manuscript was a term paper required for a course in research," etc).
2. Identify any faculty members in your program who have assisted you in any way with the study, for purpose of insuring no conflict of interest in the review process.
3. Verify (as appropriate) approval granted by an Institutional Review Board (IRB) if relevant to the study. Please note that scholarly papers, such as literature-based studies, ARE acceptable for submission for this award in which case IRB approval does not apply.
4. Indicate whether or not the manuscript has been accepted for publication. [note: Manuscripts previously published or in the process of publication are NOT eligible for this award]
5. State that the applicant (primary author) has not been the recipient of any prior research award.

### **Submission Checklist:**

- Cover letter
- De-identified manuscript
- CV for each author

### **Eligibility**

1. Competition is open to occupational therapy students, OT practitioners or teams.
2. The research must have been initiated while the primary author was enrolled as a student in an entry-level or post-professional masters or doctoral program in occupational therapy.
3. The manuscript must be submitted for the MJB Award within three years of graduation.
4. Although team members may represent other disciplines, the primary author must be an occupational therapist or occupational therapy student.
5. Applicants need not be members of Pi Theta Epsilon.
6. The applicant (primary author) must not have been the recipient of any prior research award.

### **Criteria for the Research Manuscript**

Research MUST:

1. Not have been published before nor accepted for publication at the time of submission for the MJB Award.
2. Add to the body of knowledge of occupational therapy.
3. Clearly demonstrate significance to the field of occupational therapy.
4. Present logical development of rationale for the study and for the specific research question.
5. Demonstrate methodologically correct form for the research question(s) asked by the study (not applicable to scholarly studies).
6. Be clearly written in manuscript form, using the style required by the journal to which the student plans to submit the manuscript. Please include in your cover letter a brief statement about where you plan to submit the manuscript and what that journal requires for formatting (i.e. APA style).

### **Terms**

Terms of the award require that the manuscript be submitted for publication to a journal of the authors' choosing.

### **Presentation**

The award will be presented at the awards ceremony at the next AOTA Annual Conference.