

## **Rules and Judging Criteria – IMR Three Minute Thesis Competition 2015/16**

### **Rules:**

The rules for the IMR Three Minute Thesis competition are **more relaxed** than those of the official Three Minute Thesis (3MT®) competition founded by the University of Queensland. However, the following guidelines must be observed:

- Presentations are limited to a **maximum of 3 minutes**. Competitors exceeding 3 minutes will not be disqualified but their presentation will be halted by the competition host.
- Participants will be prompted when they have 2 minutes, 1 minute, and 30 seconds remaining by means of prompt cards held up by the competition host, who will be seated directly in front of the presentation space.
- Presentations may take any form deemed suitable by the participant. PowerPoint slides (including slide transitions, animations or 'movement' of any description) are permitted.
- Sound and video files (and any other form of electronic media) are permitted.
- Additional props (e.g. costumes, musical instruments) are permitted.
- Presentations are to be spoken word (eg. no poems, raps or songs).
- The three minute timer will not start to countdown until the presenter has taken their place in the presentation space and set up their props, PowerPoint slides, etc. Presentations are considered to have commenced once a competitor starts their presentation through either movement or speech. It is at this point that the three minute timer will begin to countdown.
- The decision of the adjudicating panel is final.

### **Judging Criteria:**

#### **People's Choice winner:**

The **People's Choice winner** will be decided by an audience vote. Judges are **not permitted** to comment on or show support for/ opposition to the performance of individual competitors in any way outside the confines of private deliberation with the other judges.

Audience members will not be guided in their choice of a winner in any way. Although it is expected that the most popular presentation will win this prize, the choice is left entirely to audience discretion.

Voting slips will be handed out at the start of the competition and audience members are requested to mark their chosen winner by crossing the appropriate box. Voting slips can be placed in the ballot box after the final competitor has finished his/ her presentation. Slips will be counted whilst the judges deliberate their choices for the **three finalists** and **overall winner** after the final presentation has finished.

Judges are **not permitted** to vote in the People's Choice category.

#### **Overall winner:**

Three finalists whose presentations most successfully fulfil the following criteria will be chosen by a panel of three judges (TBC). Of the three finalists, one participant whose

presentation is deemed the strongest according to the below criteria will be deemed the overall winner.

Judges will have two opportunities to consolidate their notes and deliberate over their choices. Once **during the interval** and once **after the final presentation** is given.

Please note that each criterion is not necessarily equally weighted.

### **1. The Thesis:**

- Did the presentation provide an understanding of the background to the research question being addressed?
- Did the presentation help the audience understand the research?
- Did the presenter clearly outline the nature and aims of the research?
- Did the presenter outline what is significant about this research?
- Did the presentation follow a clear and logical sequence?
- Did the presenter outline the potential of the thesis for future development?

### **2. Communication:**

- Was the thesis topic and its significance communicated in language appropriate to the audience?
- Did the speaker use sufficient eye contact and vocal range; maintain a steady pace, and a confident stance?
- Did the speaker avoid jargon, explain terminology that needed to be used, and provide adequate background information to illustrate points?
- Did the presenter spend the right amount of time on each element of their presentation – or did they elaborate for too long or were rushed?
- Did the PowerPoint slide(s) and/ or props enhance, rather than detract from, their presentation – was it clear, legible, and concise?
- Did the presentation make the audience want to know more?
- Was the presenter careful not to trivialize or over-simplify their research?
- Did the presenter convey enthusiasm for their work?
- Did the presenter capture and maintain their audience's attention?