

The Clinical Section takes new initiatives to support student research

Andrea R. Ashbaugh
Concordia University

Source: Ashbaugh, A.R. (2007). The Clinical Section takes new initiatives to support student research. *Psynopsis: Canada's Psychology Newspaper*, 29(2), 8.

In its continued effort to support students, the Clinical Section of CPA has recently expanded its student support. For the past ten years, the Clinical Section has honoured a student presenting excellent research at the CPA conference with the Clinical Section Ken Bowers Research Award. This year the Clinical Section has increased the value of this award from \$500 to \$750.

In addition to increasing the value of the Clinical Section Ken Bowers Research Award, we're also introducing the Clinical Section Student Travel Awards. I developed these new awards based on a survey of strategies used in other sections and on consultation with student members. I was delighted when my proposal was approved at the June 2006 AGM.

Recognizing the challenge for students to travel across the country to participate at CPA conferences, we wanted to financially help Clinical Section student members attend the conference by offering 3 separate travel awards. The first award, worth \$500, will be available to student members of the Clinical Section from across Canada. The remaining two awards, worth \$200 each, will be awarded to student members of the Clinical Section from the two regions of Canada in which the conference is not being held. For example, this year because the conference is in Ottawa, which is considered part of central Canada, one student each from western and eastern Canada will be eligible for the other two awards.

These awards were also put in place to promote student excellence, and importantly to encourage students to interact with one another. These goals are being jointly met through a unique adjudication process. Students applying for the Clinical Section Travel Award will also be the adjudicators who evaluate the research of fellow applicants based on criteria including quality of the research, material presented, and aesthetic appearance of the poster or presentation. I hope that this novel method of evaluation will encourage students to develop their critical thinking skills and learn about research other students are conducting across the country.

I am confident that these new awards will help students increase their involvement at CPA conferences and will encourage them to continue to explore important questions in the field of clinical psychology. Any Clinical Section student member may apply for both the Clinical Section Travel Award and the Clinical Section Ken Bowers Student Research Award, though students can only receive one of these awards per year. More information on how to apply for one or both of these awards can be found on the Clinical Section website, <http://www.cpa.ca/clinical/notice/index.html> To become a Clinical Section student member you can contact the CPA office, membership@cpa.ca or 1-888-472-0657, ext. 324.

