

SHRI B. V. PATEL EDUCATION TRUST
(TRUST REG. NO. E-2571, AHMEDABAD)

August 5, 2017

Essay Competition - 2017

Shri B. V. Patel Education Trust invites entries for the essay competition for the year 2017.
The subject for the essay is :

**“STEM CELL BASED THERAPEUTICS:
A REVOLUTION CHANGING THE TREATMENT PARADIGM”**

Most of the current existing therapies provide palliative relief rather than curing the underlying diseases/disorders. Regenerative medicine or stem cell therapy provides new direction to the remedies in human health.

Stem cell therapeutics has the potential to resolve the underlying causes of diseases, thus providing a cure for them. Stem cell therapy involves the use of stem cells or cells differentiated from stem cells to replace or repair damaged or diseased cells and tissues. Due to the efforts of pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies in providing tools, such as Stem cell maintenance and differentiation media, transfection kits and antibodies, the pace for the development of stem cell based therapeutics has increased considerably. Currently, stem cell based therapeutics are being used for the treatment of non-healing skin wounds and muscular-skeletal injuries. However, the trend is on the upswing with the completion of the clinical trials involving stem cell therapeutics for cancer and heart disease. Globally, the stem cell therapy market is expected to be worth US \$40 billion by 2020 and US \$180 billion by 2030. However, there are still some issues that need to be tackled before stem cell therapies can be considered the de facto therapy or the magical formula for curing diseases. The main concerns involve the cost of the stem cell therapeutics and maintaining as well as regulating the quality of the stem cell therapeutics.

Furthermore, as the area of the stem cell therapy is still growing, concerns about long-term safety should be answered. These concerns need to be resolved before stem cell therapies can become the main stream therapeutics for treating diseases.

It is expected that the essay will highlight the issues related to the quality control of the manufacturing process, ethical issues, and safety concerns that need to be addressed for dispensing stem cell therapeutics clinically.

AWARDS

First and second prize winners will be respectively awarded the **Gold & Silver medal** during 69th Indian Pharmaceutical Congress. Medal winning entries should be of at least “**Distinction**” quality as judged by the panel of judges.

CRITERIA OF ELIGIBILITY

- (1) Any person interested in Pharmacy is entitled to participate in the competition.
- (2) Not more than two Figures may be appended with the essay. The text part of the essay including Tables should not **exceed 3000** words. Beyond 3000 words, it would attract minus marks.
- (3) The essay **exceeding 4000 words** would not be eligible for competition.
- (4) Only **single** author entry shall be permitted. Acknowledgement of any significant advice or help from others may be made in the cover letter.
- *5) Acknowledgement or the name and address of the author **should not appear anywhere** on the body of the **essay** or on the **synopsis**.
- (6) The **last date** for the receipt of Essay is **20/9/2017**. The essays received after 20/9/2017 **cease** to be eligible for competition.
- (7) The essay should be exclusively written and submitted for this competition only.
- (8) The decision regarding acceptance, rejection and the award of the medals for the essay would be solely of the trust and remain abiding by all the participants.

The essay in 4 copies along with (1) A short bio-data and a passport size photograph of the author (2) four copies of synopsis in **not more than 300 words** should be sent with a covering letter to **The Hon. Secretary, Shri B. V. Patel Education Trust, C/o. B. V. Patel PERD Centre, S. G. Highway, Thaltej, Ahmedaba -380 054, subscribing** on the envelope “**ESSAY COMPETITION**”, on or before 20/9/2017.



GIRISH N. PATEL

Hon. Secretary