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The Student Voice Prize  
[studentvoice@findacure.org.uk](mailto:studentvoice@findacure.org.uk)

## The Student Voice Prize Returns for its 8<sup>th</sup> year!

**Cambridge, UK, 6 October 2021:** Findacure and Medics4RareDiseases are proud to announce the return of the 8th annual Student Voice Prize. The Student Voice Prize is an annual, international essay competition that focuses on raising the profile of rare disease within the medical field, particularly with medical students, nurses and scientists who may have never come across rare diseases in their training. The overall winner of The Student Voice Prize gets his or her essay published in The Orphanet Journal of Rare Diseases alongside a cash prize and the chance to speak at Findacure's annual Rare Disease Showcase, and Medics4RareDiseases' annual symposium, The Unusual Suspects, at the Royal Society of Medicine. The winner's travel and accommodation costs will be covered so that he or she can attend both scientific conferences.\* The 2021 Student Voice Prize returns today, 6th October!

Rare diseases affect approximately 350 million people worldwide and are some of the most difficult conditions to diagnose. Despite the large number of people affected around the world, little time is dedicated to rare disease training in medical school. It is why The Student Voice Prize challenges the doctors, nurses and scientists of tomorrow to think about rare disease today. After all, with a lifetime risk of 1 in 17 in the UK, it's not rare to come across them! This year's questions will revolve around COVID-19, telemedicine and the rare disease patient experience, allowing students to share their thoughts on how healthcare can be improved for a large, but poorly represented community. This is students' chance to become a champion of the rare disease community!

The Student Voice Prize was first held in 2014 and has proven itself to be a gateway for many medical students, nurses and scientists who want to engage with patients from across the medical spectrum, particularly in rare disease. The Student Voice Prize offers students the chance to be paired with a rare disease patient group in the hopes that their interaction leads them to reflect on their schooling, practice and beliefs. Many students have gone from Student Voice Prize entrants to proud rare disease ambassadors, proving the public benefit of this prestigious competition. The 2020 Prize saw the most entries and engagement to date, with submissions growing by 69%. We even paired 45 students with patient groups and rare disease advocates.

"I think The Student Voice Prize's work in raising awareness of rare diseases amongst medical students is really important – they aren't featured often enough in our curriculum. The essay competition has definitely helped me become more aware of some of the issues in looking after rare disease patients, and has made me consider going into this area for a career. I'm really grateful for the opportunities it has provided." – Rebecca Nunn, overall winner of The Student Voice Prize 2016

"The Student Voice Prize asks medical students around the world to put themselves in the shoes of their rarest patients. We ask them to consider the impact of their symptoms, but more crucially, the impact of their interactions with doctors. Connecting in this way with the rare disease patient experience can change the way students deal with patients across their career, and open their eyes to the complex world of rare diseases. We can't wait to read this year's entries." – Findacure CEO, Dr. Rick Thompson

**About The 2021 Student Voice Prize:** The 2021 Student Voice Prize is accepting essay submissions from now until 17 November at 12pm GMT. Students can request to be paired with a patient group and enter up to one essay for each question. Essays must be 1,500 words or less. View the [official Student Voice Prize website](https://www.findacure.org.uk/student-voice-prize/) (<https://www.findacure.org.uk/student-voice-prize/>) for more information and check out the list of 2021 prizes and past winners! Email [studentvoice@findacure.org.uk](mailto:studentvoice@findacure.org.uk) with any questions and follow The Student Voice Prize on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook (@RDStudentVoice).

\*COVID-19 Dependent



Please contact [studentvoice@findacure.org.uk](mailto:studentvoice@findacure.org.uk)  
if you'd like to learn more.