

Outstanding Professional Paper Award

exclusively for

Professional Members

The SEPA Executive Committee, with funding under a grant from the American Psychological Association (APA) Science Directorate, seeks to encourage the oral presentation and eventual publication of high-quality scientific research by professional members at the annual meetings. Since 2000, the APA has provided funding for awards to be given for outstanding scientific papers presented at the annual SEPA meetings. The **Outstanding Professional Paper Award** (OPPA) comes with a prize of \$500.00. Although a single award usually is made, the OPPA Committee has the option of naming co-winners or first-, second-, and third-place winners should the committee judge multiple papers meritorious. (If more than one winner is selected, the \$500.00 will be divided between or among them.)

ELIGIBILITY

1. The sole or first (senior) author, as described in the *APA Publication Manual*, must be a non-student, professional member of SEPA in good standing at the time of the 2009 meeting.
2. The paper may report empirical research, or it may be theoretical so long as clear empirical foundations exist.
3. The paper must be presented orally by the senior author.
4. Only oral (paper, not poster) presentations are eligible for the award. Thus, a professional member submitting an abstract must either submit that abstract for presentation as a paper or, if submitting it for presentation as a poster, must make sure to check the block that indicates willingness the change from poster to paper in order to be eligible for nomination.
5. Entry for the Outstanding Professional Paper Award is by nomination only. Eligible authors whose abstracts are judged by the Program Committee to be of particularly high quality will be invited to submit their papers for the award. Those authors who agree to and who do submit their papers one month prior to the meeting will be eligible to be considered for the award.

SUBMISSION and JUDGING

1. Submit your abstract via ESS (Electronic Submission System) by noon on October 13, 2009.
2. Submit only completed research (not in-progress or proposed research). **There is nothing else to do at this time!**
3. Your abstract will be reviewed in the usual manner by the Program Committee.
4. Authors of abstracts that meet the eligibility requirements and receive the highest ratings (see above paragraph) will be asked whether they wish to have their papers considered for the Outstanding Professional Paper Award.
5. Those authors who wish to have their submissions considered for the award must submit a complete copy of the paper which will form the basis of their presentation to the chair of the OPPA committee at least one month prior to the meeting (by January 18, 2009). The text of the paper should be no longer than 12 manuscript pages; additional pages may be used for references, tables, and figures; the entire manuscript should conform with the rules of APA manuscript style.
6. Members of the OPPA Committee will attend the author's presentation, and the committee will consider the quality both of the previously submitted paper and of the presentation equally in determining the winner(s).

RECOGNITION

1. The award winner will receive \$500.00. (If there are multiple winners, the \$500.00 will be divided).
2. If possible, the award recipient(s) will be announced at the Awards Reception after the second day of convention programming.
3. An award announcement will also be carried in the next SEPA newsletter.
4. Notification of the award(s) will be sent to the appropriate officials of the institution(s) with which the winner(s) is (are) affiliated.

For additional information, contact Dr. Debra Sue Pate, Chair of the Selection Committee

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or the SEPA office at 850-474-2070.