

The Human Microbiome Essay Contest

The microbiome comprises the entire community of microorganisms (bacteria, fungi, viruses, etc.) in a particular environment. We have just started to explore the human microbiome and to understand its effect on health and disease. The microbiome is certainly more susceptible to change than our genetic make-up, and the impact may just be as great.

Terms and Conditions:

1. “The Human Microbiome – Essay Contest” is jointly organised by the Antimicrobial Resistance Programme at the Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health located at the Tahir Foundation Building, 12 Science Drive, #10-01, Singapore 117549; the School of Life Sciences and Chemical Technology at Ngee Ann Polytechnic located at 535 Clementi Road, Singapore 559489; the Department of Microbiology at Singapore General Hospital located at 20 College Road, Singapore 169856; and the Singapore Centre for Environmental Life Sciences Engineering located at 60 Nanyang Drive, Singapore 637551 (“the Organiser”).
2. No entry fee is required to enter this contest.
3. By entering this contest, the participants agree to be bound by the terms and conditions (“Terms and Conditions”) spelled out below and to abide by the decision of the Organiser in all matters relating to the contest.

Contest:

1. We invite participants to submit an original English essay of up to 1,500 words, reflecting on the theme of the contest – **“The Human Microbiome”**. Participants can select any format or approach as they wish (i.e. we accept fiction, scientific communication with references, etc.) in prose as long as the theme of the contest is met.
2. Submission of entries opens from 1st June 2019, 0800H and will close on 31st August 2019, 2359H. No further entries will be accepted after this date.
3. The contest is open to students who are between 13 to 20 years of age, enrolled in any Singapore school (including private schools) and polytechnic.
 - a) Persons who are involved in the planning, organisation, judging or any part of the contest, and their immediate family members are not qualified to participate in the contest.
 - b) Only one essay per participant will be judged for the contest.
4. Participants are required to submit their essays in the form of Microsoft Word documents or PDFs, with an accompanying short caption, to both the following email addresses: mdchly@nus.edu.sg and ldsg50feedback@gmail.com. Please include the following information in the caption:

- a) Name of the participant submitting the essay
 - b) School name and address
 - c) Contact details, including email and handphone number
 - d) Title of essay
5. All essay entries will be confirmed by the Organiser, and subject to its approval. The Organiser who will have the sole discretion to disqualify any entry as it deems fit, including but not limited to essays that:
- a) Contain obscene, provocative, objectionable or otherwise inappropriate content
 - b) Contain plagiarised content
6. All essays:
- a) Should have a title page that includes the following information:
 - i. Name of the participant, including contact details such as phone number and/or email
 - ii. School name and address
 - iii. Title of essay
 - b) Must not have been written with professional or adult assistance.
 - c) Must be original work conceived and written solely by the participants. Plagiarism will result in immediate disqualification (but we encourage references or footnotes if other work is cited).
 - d) Must not have been published elsewhere.
7. Ownership of the copyright of the essays remain with the participants, but by entering the contest, each participant consents to the use of his/her name, and/or pieces or parts thereof in any advertisements, educational materials, corpus research or media and publicity carried out or produced by the Organiser without further notice or compensation. The Organiser can choose to publish or use any submitted essays at its sole discretion.
8. Judging will occur in October 2019. The decision of the judges will be final. The essays will be judged according to the following criteria:
- a) Understanding of the topic
 - b) Organisation and conveyance of the message
 - c) Original thinking
 - d) Quality of writing
9. Prizes will be presented during World Antibiotic Awareness Week (November 2019 – final date to be announced) – further details will be provided to the award winners. The following prizes will be available for the contest:
- i. One First Place: \$750
 - ii. One Second Place: \$500
 - iii. Two Merit Awards: \$250
10. The Organiser will not be responsible or liable for any loss or damage relating to or arising from the contest or the prizes awarded, regardless of the cause or reason.

11. These Terms and Conditions will be governed by the laws of the Republic of Singapore and the participants agree to submit to the exclusive jurisdiction of the Singapore courts.