SPA Awards Committee

Award of Merit – Student Initiative and Professional Engagement

Terms of Reference

2026 Version

PURPOSE: To recognize a student SPA member who has demonstrated initiative and professional involvement in the rehabilitation sciences.

HISTORY: Established in 2020.

CRITERIA: Must be a member in good standing with CPA and SPA.
Must have demonstrated:

- Ongoing student engagement with national or provincial associations through participation in events, lunch and learns, conferences, etc.
- Initiative and professional involvement in the rehabilitation sciences through:
    - Outstanding promotion of the profession.
    - Development of new or innovative programs or initiatives.
    - Involvement in development of research or knowledge translation in the area of rehabilitation sciences.

Student initiative and professional engagement could be represented by the following activities (the student should have demonstrated a minimum of 2 of these):

- Effort to go "above and beyond"; demonstrates dedication to the profession.
- Enthusiasm to promote new learning opportunities, create reciprocal relationships with groups that benefit health care clients, and demonstrate innovation within the rehabilitation sciences.
- History of volunteer activity within the profession.
- History of being regarded as a good spokesperson for the profession, representing the interests of all physiotherapists.
- Considered by peers to be a role model of professional behaviour, and motivates others to become involved in professional activities.
- Seeks opportunities to engage with the professional community outside of the classroom.

Deadline for submissions: February 13, 2026

NOMINATION PROCEDURE: Any second-year SPA student member may make nominations.
Nominations must be submitted by email to the second-year student representative on the SPA Board and must include:

- Name and contact information of nominator.
- Name and contact information for nominee.
- One letter from the nominator outlining how the individual meets the criteria as stated above.

SELECTION OF RECIPIENT: Made by the students' peers via online survey, coordinated by the second-year student representative on the SPA Board.

PRESENTATION: Annually – At the SPA Annual General Meeting. Award winners will be contacted by the committee prior to the AGM and invited to attend the awards presentation and make a brief response to the award received. A complimentary entry for the awards presentation will be provided to both the award nominator and the recipient.

FORM OF AWARD: Framed Certificate and $50 Value Prize