

ICA/NCA THESIS & DISSERTATION AWARDS

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

AMANDA L. KUNDRAT THESIS OF THE YEAR AND ABBY PRESTIN DISSERTATION AWARDS

The 2022 ICA/NCA Amanda L. Kundrat Thesis of the Year and Abby Prestin Dissertation Awards

ICA and NCA are pleased to release a call for outstanding masters theses and doctoral dissertations in the area of health communication. A cash award is given in the amount of \$500 each for the top dissertation and top thesis.

Each year, a committee composed of leaders from the Health Communication Divisions of the ICA and NCA reviews masters theses and doctoral dissertations submitted for consideration. Authors of the top-rated thesis and top-rated dissertation (and their faculty advisors) are recognized at the Annual Division Business Meeting during ICA's conference.

In 2010, the Thesis of the Year Award was renamed the Amanda L. Kundrat Health Communication Thesis of the Year thanks to an endowment created by the Kundrat family for that award. Amanda passed away on January 21st, 2003 while a doctoral candidate in the Department of Communication Arts and Sciences. Her passion for health communication was rooted in both her personal and academic understanding of the healthcare system. Amanda's MA thesis previously won the Thesis of the Year Award.

The Dissertation Award is given in honor of the late Abby Prestin, an exemplary health communication scholar and person, who tragically passed away on September 3, 2014 at the age of 34 after a year-long battle with lymphoma. Both her MA Thesis and PhD Dissertations won these awards and the Dissertation Award is endowed by her family and friends.

For more information about these endowments and ways for you to contribute to this fund, please go to <https://www.icahdq.org/donations/> and look for the two funds alphabetized under the name "Health Communication."

REQUIREMENTS & INSTRUCTIONS

To be considered for the 2022 awards, theses and dissertations must have been completed (defended and approved) between 1 September 2019 and 31 December 2021. This extended eligibility period is intended to accommodate those who were unable to complete their thesis or dissertation on time to be considered for last year's award cycle due to the effects of the pandemic. Individuals may nominate themselves, but advisors must be notified of the nomination. Only first-time nominations for each award will be considered. Thesis and dissertation nominations will be evaluated by a panel of officers and members of the ICA and NCA Health Communication Divisions, with the ICA Chair serving as the award coordinator.

The nomination packet should include (a) a cover letter with the name, postal address, telephone number and email address of the nominee and their advisor(s) and completion date of the thesis or dissertation, and (b) a summary (excluding title page and references) of the thesis or dissertation not exceeding 5 pages (8 ½ x 11" page, Times New Roman 12 point font, double-spaced, one-inch margins on all sides, and in English; not counting title page and references). The 5-page summary should describe clearly and concisely the study's rationale, theoretical framework, research questions, methods, results, and conclusions. Care should be taken to mask the identity of the author within the text of the summary. The summary should include a title page that contains only the title of the thesis or dissertation. Complete or chapters of theses or dissertations will not be accepted for review. Reviewers will be instructed not to read beyond the first 5 pages of text. PLEASE SUBMIT PACKET AS A MS WORD DOCUMENT—NOT AS A PDF.

On or before March 14th, a slate of up to 3 finalists for each award will be selected by the evaluation committee. Finalists will be invited to submit an extended integrated summary of the thesis or dissertation not exceeding 30 pages (double-spaced, one-inch margins on all sides, and in English). These summaries will be reviewed by the committee and the award winners will be selected from among the finalists.

Send an electronic copy of the nomination packet including cover letter and 5-page summary to:
Itzhak Yanovitzky
Chair, ICA Health Communication Division
Email: itzhak@rutgers.edu

The deadline for receipt of the nomination packets is January 31, 2022.

Nomination packets received after that date will not be reviewed.