



Submission

The University of Warwick's Hippocrates Prize for Poetry and Medicine, now in its third year, is given to poetry on a medical theme.

One category is open to all and has been won in previous years by the renowned poets C. K. Stead and Michael Henry. The other award is restricted to UK health students and those who have worked in the NHS. The first prize in each category is £5,000.

The prizes have attracted more than 3,000 entries from 31 countries in their first two years and have received widespread media coverage.

“Traditionally, poetry speaks to big moments in your life,” said Fiona Sampson, editor of the *Poetry Review*, “so it is quite natural for people to turn to it when thinking about illness, whether they are patients or medical professionals.”

The awards are presented at an annual symposium, which Michael Hulse, associate professor in the department of English and comparative literary studies at Warwick, said was designed to “encourage research on both the clinical and the literary aspects of the partnership between poetry and medicine”.

He added: “We are beginning to amass evidence of the beneficial impact that poetry can have in therapeutic contexts, and at the same time we are tracing a neglected but major strand in the history of poetry, from Lucretius to the present.”

The Hippocrates Prize for Poetry and Medicine, commented judges Shearer West, head of the humanities division at the University of Oxford, “represents a highly imaginative engagement with medical humanities. By attracting internationally recognised poets, this prize fosters closer partnerships between humanities and medical science.”