

Rules governing the Prescrire Prize

Selection of the winners of the Prescrire Prize involves two successive phases: the choice of the works to be reviewed in the « Lu pour vous » section (preselection) and the final selection from amongst the works reviewed.

Purpose

The Prescrire Prize was created in order to recognise on a yearly basis the authors and publishers of one or several publications, brochures or documents of any type that were particularly noteworthy for the quality and the usefulness of the information they provide to healthcare professionals, to patients or to the public at large. This prize is also a way to draw the attention of healthcare professionals to documents that are important for their practice.

Working method

The Prescrire Prize is the result of the analysis carried out in total independence by Prescrire's Editorial Staff and which supplies the content of the « Lu pour vous » section for the monthly issues published over the year by the French journal *Prescrire*, from October through September.

On-going, in-depth analysis

The choice of documents reviewed in the « Lu pour vous » section is based on the simple criteria of fulfilling a need, of reliability and of ease of use.

The criteria of fulfilling a need and of ease of use are evaluated by members of the Editorial Staff, the majority of whom are practicing healthcare professionals. Other practicing healthcare professionals may be called upon, if necessary, to evaluate a work in the context of their day-to-day practice. Non-professionals may also be called upon.

The criteria of reliability relate to the content's scientific rigour and editorial structure: assertions that are well-reasoned and are supported, whenever possible, by references, with established facts clearly distinguished from hypotheses; sources that are identified; explanation of how the work was produced; peer review; addition of updated information; etc. These criteria are evaluated by a committee made up of members of Prescrire's Editorial Staff, assisted if necessary by specialists on the relevant subject.

An entirely independent selection

The preselection of documents chosen to be considered for the Prescrire Prize takes into account the criteria indicated above, as well as: the document's informational value in comparison to already available publications on the subject (or in view of the absence thereof); the importance of the subject matter to the practice of the professionals targeted, in terms of the prevalence, the seriousness or the problem

posed, or the importance of the information to its audience, etc. The final selection for the Prescrire Prize gives preference to documents of the highest standard of quality according to the criteria described above. The preselection and selection are carried out collectively and in all independence by Prescrire's Editorial Staff. The personality of the author or authors, of the publisher or publishers, or of any person or organisation having participated in the creation or the sale of the document, does not enter into the choice at any time.

Audience

The winners of Prescrire Prize (publisher(s) and author(s)) are notified as soon as the Editorial Staff has made its choice (May-June). The Prize results are published in the October issue of the French journal *Prescrire*.

The Prescrire Prize awards ceremony is an event to which the publishers and authors are invited, along with other participants and members of the medical press and the public at large. The event includes a discussion-debate on a subject relating to health information or a discussion with the winning works' authors and publishers.

The costs of organising this event, excluding participants' travel expenses, are paid for by *Prescrire*, without any contribution by the winners' publishers.



Pierre Chirac
President of
Association Mieux Prescrire



Bruno Toussaint
Publishing Director

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