

## Goal and Opportunity

The DIA Fellows' Award for Best Student Proposal Competition is designed to

- Foster further engagement between members of DIA's Student Chapters, students at schools throughout the U.S., and DIA as a whole;
- Provide an opportunity for students to propose viable solutions to current challenges throughout the drug development and utilization lifecycle; and
- Provide significant visibility and engagement for the winning team within the regulatory, biopharmaceutical and healthcare products, academic, patient, and CRO communities.

Each year, DIA will issue one or more specific challenges to which students are invited to respond. The competition will be judged by a Committee of DIA Fellows, who are among our most experienced and engaged members and who encompass a broad range of expertise. 2021 will serve as a pilot year for the program.

Finalists and winners will have the opportunity for very high visibility and engagement within the global regulatory, biopharmaceutical and healthcare products, academic, patient, and CRO communities. Representatives from each finalist team will be given an opportunity to present their work at DIA's [Global Annual Meeting](#) in June 2021 (held virtually this year, with registration fees waived for finalists and winners), with the Award presented to the winning team at that time. The Global Annual Meeting typically draws an audience of several thousand attendees in person, with broad representation of industry leaders.

While at the meeting, finalist team members will have an opportunity to attend learning sessions, to network, and to participate in professional development workshops. They will also have a dedicated opportunity to meet with leaders from DIA, biopharmaceutical and healthcare products companies, CROs, and related organizations, increasing their exposure to decision makers in the field, learning more about career pathways, and enjoying further opportunities to discuss their proposal.

In addition, the winning team's work product will be featured in DIA's [Global Forum](#), a monthly publication reaching 66,000+ members of the regulatory and industry communities and beyond. Global Forum offers expert global and regional coverage of the discovery, development, regulation, surveillance, access, and marketing of healthcare products, including interviews with thought leaders and topical articles from DIA educational events.

## DIA Mission

[DIA](#) fosters innovation to improve health and well-being worldwide by

- Providing invaluable forums to exchange vital information and discuss current issues in the drug development life cycle;
- Delivering customized learning experiences;
- Building, maintaining, and facilitating trusted relationships with and among individuals and organizations that drive and share DIA values and mandates; and
- Offering a neutral multidisciplinary environment, respected globally for integrity and relevance.

## DIA Fellows

A Committee of DIA Fellows is closely involved in the design of the Award competition and will serve as its judges.

Fellows of DIA are senior members of the regulatory, biopharmaceutical and healthcare products, and CRO communities and have demonstrated active support of the advancement of health care and the health care products arena as well as support of DIA through their leadership roles. This is an honorary recognition bestowed on less than 1% of DIA's membership.

The DIA Fellows' Award for Best Student Proposal and the Competition are named for the DIA Fellows in recognition of their extensive engagement with DIA in key volunteer leadership roles and their commitment to growing the next generation of leaders.

## 2021 Competition

The areas selected for this challenge are intentionally broad. DIA and the Fellows who serve as Competition judges encourage teams to think big, “out-of-the-box,” and creatively. Each team must propose a project designed to positively impact the drug development life cycle and patient outcomes in **one** of the following areas:

- A. The history of drug development in the U.S. includes many reasons for communities of color to distrust the healthcare and pharmaceutical ecosystem – such as the Tuskegee Experiment run by the U.S. government, health care disparities, exclusion from participation in clinical trials, and more. Proposals in this area should focus on innovative, practical, specific approaches that the biopharmaceutical and healthcare products industry can adopt to build trust and partner with communities of color so that the outcomes of clinical trials are beneficial to the full range of patients who are affected by disease.
- B. Over the past year, the COVID-19 drug and vaccine development process has played out at an astonishingly rapid rate, with many important changes occurring throughout the entire development and testing life cycle. These changes represent a remarkable departure from a process that in the past has averaged 10 to 15 years. What can be learned from this unique experience that could be applied to other drugs, vaccines and diagnostic tests (not related to COVID-19) to shorten their development cycle dramatically? Proposals in this area should focus on novel, pragmatic, specific approaches to product development that could significantly accelerate the development and testing process. The focus may be on product development and testing in general or for specific health conditions.

## Project Proposal

1. **Cover Page** with the following information:
  - Name of the institution from which the proposal is being submitted
  - Names of all team members and schools/programs with which they are affiliated
  - Contact information (email and phone) for all team members
  - Name and contact information of faculty sponsor
  - The Competition content area to which the proposal is responding (Area A or B from the section above)
  - A one-paragraph overview of the proposed project
2. **Proposal:** Consisting of no more than three pages in addition to the cover page, with text in 12-point font with minimum 0.75” margins, the proposal should be comprised of the following numbered sections:
  - A. Proposed project**
    1. Detailed description of proposed project
    2. Timeline, including major milestones
    3. Anticipated budget required to carry out the project
    4. Critical success factors required for the project to succeed, including key stakeholders
    5. Obstacles and challenges to be overcome
  - A. Impact and Potential Benefit**
    1. Please describe how the proposed project would benefit people or processes and the mechanism by which they would benefit. This section should help the judges understand how the proposed project will positively impact the health care product development life cycle and patient outcomes.

Please note that the judges will not read beyond the third page of proposal text.

## Eligibility

- Teams can be drawn from any accredited college or university based in the United States, including those that have DIA Student Chapters. An institution may have an unlimited number of teams participate in the competition.
  - While not required for this Award competition, DIA student membership is available at a discounted rate; information may be found [here](#).
  - As of January 2021, DIA has Student Chapters at Florida A&M University, Howard University, Long Island University, Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, Rutgers University, St. John's University, Touro University, University of Illinois at Chicago, and University of the Sciences in Philadelphia.
  - If you need contact information for a student chapter at your institution or are interested in founding a student chapter at your school, please inquire [here](#).
- Teams should consist of between two and four members, all of whom must be students. Teams may include members from multiple schools within the institution (e.g., Pharmacy, Medicine, Public Health, Nursing, Business).
- A faculty member must agree to provide feedback to students in advance of their proposal submission. For those teams selected as finalists, the faculty member must also agree to help the team hone their presentation. The name of the faculty member must be included in the proposal.

## Timeline

<b>January 15, 2021</b>	Call for proposals opens
<b>April 30, 2021</b>	Proposals due
<b>May 14, 2021</b>	Teams notified of initial evaluation results, with finalists teams invited to participate in the Global Annual Meeting
<b>May 21, 2021</b>	Finalist teams to confirm their participation in Global Annual Meeting (a virtual event in 2021)
<b>June 5, 2021</b>	Finalist presentation recordings due to DIA (information to be provided)
<b>June 27 – July 1, 2021</b>	Presentations viewed at Global Annual Meeting, Q&A with judges, and winner announced

## Submission

Submit completed proposals no later than the due date to [Kristen Hagans](#), DIA's Student Chapter Coordinator. Incomplete proposals will not be evaluated.

## Evaluation Criteria

Three criteria will be used to evaluate proposals:

- Potential impact of the proposed solution (40% of evaluation score)
- Feasibility of the proposed solution (40% of evaluation score)
- Creativity of the proposed solution (20% of evaluation score)

## Questions

Questions about the Student Competition should be directed to [Kristen Hagans](#), DIA's Student Chapter Coordinator.