A DOCTOR practising in Nowra and a medical student from Melbourne are the winners of the MJA, MDA National, Nossal Global Health Prize. Their winning essays are published in today’s Medical Journal of Australia.

The prize, awarded in honour of revered Australian research biologist Sir Gustav Nossal, is open to medical students and medical practitioners anywhere in the world who are working in, or who have worked in, a resource-poor setting.

This year’s practitioner prize was won by Dr Costa Boyages, a doctor at Shoalhaven District Memorial Hospital in Nowra, NSW. His essay, *Malnutrition: a global health perspective from a Timorese mountain*, detailed the factors influencing the treatment and prevention of malnutrition, particularly in Timor-Leste.

“While focusing on the clinical dimensions of malnutrition is traditionally the province of medicine, the medical *practitioner*, whether physician or policymaker, must confront its socioecological and politico-economic determinants to consign it to history”, Dr Boyages wrote.

The medical student prize was awarded to Ms Victoria Smith, a student at Monash University in Melbourne, whose essay, *Upstream or downstream?*, used a river analogy to describe the health continuum from prevention to treatment.

Dr Boyages and Ms Smith each won a 5-day Public Health Leadership course at the Nossal Institute for Global Health valued at $3000, $1000 from MDA National to be used for travel expenses, and had their winning essays published in the MJA.

Outstanding runner-up in the medical practitioner category, Dr Georgina Phillips, an emergency physician at St Vincent’s Hospital in Melbourne, was also published in the MJA. Her essay, *Empowering clinicians to address the global challenge of trauma: an example from Myanmar*, described how investment in clinicians and in hospitals can trigger wholesale change in thinking about health systems.

Please remember to credit The MJA – this assures your audience it is from a reputable source

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