

# Pusterla Medical Ethics Slam Award 2026

## Call for Entries – Medical Students

The **Pusterla Medical Ethics Slam Award 2026** invites medical students across Switzerland to explore ethical questions in health, medicine, and illness through **creative live performance**. Whether thoughtful, critical, humorous, or moving, this is your opportunity to reflect on ethics beyond textbooks, and to share your perspective with a wider audience.

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## About the Award

The award is organised by the **Centre for Medical Humanities (CMH)** at the University of Zurich. Its aim is to bring ethical reflection into dialogue with artistic expression and to encourage fresh, student-led perspectives on medicine and society.

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## Awards & Recognition

- **1st Prize:** CHF 1,000
- **2nd Prize:** CHF 500
- **3rd Prize:** CHF 300
- **Audience Favourite Award:** CHF 300

All shortlisted performances will be presented live and voted for at the **Pusterla Medical Ethics Slam 2026**. Short video excerpts will be shared on the **IBME website** and **social media channels** after the public event.

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## Who Can Apply?

- Open to **all medical students studying at Swiss institutions (all semesters)**
  - **Individual** or **team performances** (maximum of 3 people)
    - All team members must perform on stage
    - Prize money will be shared among team members as they decide
  - Students who will be invited to perform at the Pusterla Medical Ethics Slam travelling from outside Zurich will have their **travel expenses** (SBB 2nd class) reimbursed
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## What Performances Are Expected?

Performances should engage with an ethical issue related to health, medicine, or illness, and stimulate reflection. Formats are open and creative, including but not limited to:

- Acting
- Singing or music
- Dance or movement
- Spoken word or monologue
- Reading or storytelling
- Mixed or experimental formats

Performers may choose to perform from the perspective of a **patient, relative, healthcare professional, or another viewpoint** – this is entirely up to the participant.

**Performance length:** Maximum **3 minutes**, performed live

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## Submission Guidelines

You may submit **either**:

1. **A written performance concept** – Maximum **1 page** (Word format, font size 11, 1.5 line spacing) **or**
2. **A pre-recorded performance video** that should reflect what you plan to perform live – Maximum **3 minutes**

**Languages:** You may submit and perform in **Swiss German, German, Italian, French, English, or a mix of them.**

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## Use of AI

AI tools are permitted **as part of your creative process**, provided the work shows significant personal input. Please briefly document:

- The tool(s) used (e.g. Midjourney, Copilot, OpenAI)
- Your creative process (prompt, tool, and date)

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## How to Submit

- Please email your submission to: **pusterla@ibme.uzh.ch**
- Include the following: your **name**, **institution**, and **title of your work** (in the email subject line)
- If submitting a video, please upload it via **WeTransfer** and include a link that expires after **7 days**.
- Optional: **Coaching support** from an expert is available for selected participants.

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## Presenters

- Dr. med. Afreed Ashraf, Swissmedtalk (invitation pending)
- Dr. med. Willi Balandies, Swissmedtalk (invitation pending)

## Jury Members

- Three experts from the fields of medical education, clinical ethics and poetry slam (invitations pending)

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## Judging Process

- A **pre-selection committee** will review all submissions and shortlist up to **10 performances**
- The jury will deliberate during the **Pusterla Medical Ethics Slam Night 2026**
- Evaluation is **anonymous**
- The jury's decision is final

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## Evaluation Criteria

Submissions will be assessed on:

- **Ethical Reflection:** Engagement with an ethical issue in medicine or health
- **Concept:** Clarity, relevance, and thoughtfulness of the idea
- **Artistic Impact:** Ability to provoke reflection, discussion, or emotional resonance through artistic expression

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## Rights & Usage

By submitting an entry, participants grant the organisers a **non-exclusive licence** to use recordings of the performance for award-related and academic communication purposes.

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## Key Dates

- Call opens: **21 April**
- Submission deadline: **17 May**
- Shortlist announced: **Early June**
- **Pusterla Medical Ethics Slam 2026: 22 September 2026, 18:00 at Cabaret Voltaire**

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## Questions?

Please contact: **pusterla@ibme.uzh.ch**

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