The Emory Center for AIDS Research (CFAR) and PRISM Health is excited to announce a writing competition for Ph.D. students at all CFAR institutions. Students are invited to submit proposals to conduct an analysis using Emory University data from our national online survey of the behaviors of men who have sex with men (MSM). Proposals will be selected for manuscript development. The winning manuscript will receive a $1000 scholarship to attend a scientific conference.

**Study background:** The *American Men’s Internet Survey (AMIS)* is an annual cross-sectional online behavioral survey of MSM in the United States. The survey is conducted by the PRISM Health team at the Emory University’s Rollins School of Public Health and is supported through funding from the MAC AIDS Fund and the Emory CFAR. The primary objective of AMIS is to monitor trends in HIV risk behavior, use of HIV testing services, and access to prevention services among gay and bisexual men in order to improve public health services for HIV prevention. AMIS is a national research study, and the procedures and materials were reviewed and approved by Emory University’s institutional review board. Data available for this writing competition will be from the AMIS-2014 data cycle.

**Award:** The first author of the winning paper will receive a scholarship valued up to $1000 toward registration, travel or accommodation to a local, national or international scientific conference. The selected conference will be at the author’s discretion and does not need to be selected based on the topic of the winning paper.

**Eligibility:** This contest is open to all currently enrolled Ph.D. students at all current CFAR sites nationwide. Contestants do not need to have experience or coursework in HIV research, and students from all departments are welcome to submit proposals. Contestants must have their proposal and analyses supervised by a CFAR-affiliated faculty member from their institution. Emory CFAR and PRISM Health reserve the right to verify eligibility qualifications of contestants.

**Submission process:**

1) Contestant reviews the attached data documentation. Data documentation includes the full study survey, study description, summary of national findings, draft MOU regarding release of datasets and topics that are not available for analysis.

2) Contestant develops a study question(s) and writes a proposal for an analysis/paper topic using the attached template.

3) Contestant submits proposal to the AMIS study team ([amis@emory.edu](mailto:amis@emory.edu)) by the deadline (see below).

4) AMIS study team will review all submitted proposals and will select proposals for approval based on feasibility, innovation and significance of the study question(s).

5) Selected Contestant must obtain IRB approval (or other determination) for their proposed study and must submit an approval letter and a signed a MOU on data use to the AMIS study team ([amis@emory.edu](mailto:amis@emory.edu)).
6) AMIS study team will release the AMIS dataset (SAS format) to the Contestant within 1 week of receiving the IRB approval and signed MOU.

7) Contestant must submit draft of a journal-ready manuscript to the AMIS study team (amis@emory.edu) by the deadline (see below).

8) A panel of Emory CFAR faculty will be convened to review the submitted manuscripts. The winning manuscript will be selected based on innovation/significance, execution of the analytic approach, clarity of writing, and potential for publication in a peer-reviewed journal.

9) AMIS study team will notify the contestants of the winner by the deadline (see below).

Other Information:

- The AMIS study team will only provide limited technical assistance, such as reviewing proposed topics for feasibility/availability and resolving any initial dataset issues. Contestants are expected to develop proposals and conduct their analyses independent of AMIS study team support.
- The AMIS study team will ensure that study questions from selected proposals will not be pursued by others for the duration of the writing contest. If contestants fail to submit the manuscript for the contest deadline, then the AMIS study team may choose to end the data use agreement and open the question/topic for other research use.
- A contestant may submit multiple proposals, but only 1 will be accepted.
- A contestant may choose to develop multiple manuscripts from a single approved proposal, but only 1 should be submitted for the contest.
- There will be at least 1 contest winner in 2016. There may be more than 1 contest winner depending upon funding and the quality of manuscripts submitted.
- The scholarship of $1000 for the contest winner will be paid directly to the scientific conference planning committee, hotel, or travel preparer. The contestant winner must notify the AMIS study team at least 10 working days in advance of the need for use of the scholarship (e.g., 10 working days before the conference registration deadline). Any unused portion of the scholarship will be forfeited on either the first day of the attended scientific conference or on 30 June 2017, whichever is earliest.
- Though there is no publication requirement for contest manuscripts, the AMIS study team hopes that all contestants will submit their manuscripts to a journal for consideration. The AMIS study team will support manuscript authors in final preparation for journal submission as requested/needed. Though there is no requirement for such, AMIS study team members may be invited to be co-authors if authorship criteria are met.
- If by January 1, 2017, manuscripts are not accepted by a journal for publication, the AMIS study team may choose to open the question/topic for other research use.
- The AMIS study teams asks that all published papers from this contest include an acknowledgement of the AMIS study and funding sources as noted in the data use agreement.
Key Dates:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 April 2016</td>
<td>Proposal Due</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 April 2016</td>
<td>Accepted Proposals Notified</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 August 2016</td>
<td>Manuscripts Due</td>
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<tr>
<td>15 August 2016</td>
<td>Winner Announced</td>
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For more information, please contact the AMIS study team:

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