



The CFAS/ALPHA Award

The CFAS Alpha Award is awarded bi-annually, coinciding with the ALPHA Scientists in Reproductive Medicine Meeting (ALPHA). This award is given to a Clinical Embryologist who is deemed to have made a distinguished contribution to clinical embryology and is accompanied by a travel award for up to **2500\$** towards attending the ALPHA Meeting. The winner is required to present their award-winning abstract in an oral presentation at the ALPHA meeting. This award is open to CFAS members only.

The ALPHA Meeting registration and 3 nights accommodation is covered by **ALPHA** (approximately €1095 value).

CFAS covers travel to the ALPHA Meeting (economy class airfare ONLY). Recipients of the ALPHA Award must book their travel to the **ALPHA Meeting via CFAS's Corporate Traveller Travel Agent**. *Should you wish to travel business class, you may schedule your own flights. Please note that with the fluctuating flight prices and steady increase in flight cost closer departure date, CFAS will not reimburse any portion of your business class flight because of economy class fare comparison could not be ascertained.*

No other expenses related to attending the ALPHA conference (e.g. taxis to/from airport, food, fees for eTAs) will be reimbursed. It is the award winner's responsibility to ensure they have adequate documentation (passports/eTAs, visas, etc.) to travel to the conference location. It is the award winner's responsibility to ensure they have appropriate currency for the international location of the conference.

The recipient is determined based on their abstract(s) and presentation(s) at the Canadian Fertility and Andrology Society's Annual Meeting. To indicate their interest in being considered for the ALPHA Award, a candidate must contact the CFAS Office with their name, presentation title (abstract/poster title), presentation time/session and/or poster number and poster session and **clearly state** they would like to be considered for the award. This information must be provided to the CFAS Office **after** the list of accepted CFAS abstracts is released and **at least 2 weeks** before the Annual Meeting. Late indication of interest will not be accepted.

The CFAS Office will provide the list of candidates to the ART Lab Special Interest Group Chair prior to the Annual Meeting. The Chair must clearly indicate to CFAS who will be on the judging/review committee for the Alpha Award. The judges must be present at the CFAS Annual Meeting and attend the poster/oral communication sessions of the presentations they intend to score. An on-site judging panel comprised of members of the CFAS ART Lab Special Interest Group selects the winner based on their presentation's score in the following 5 categories (each scored out of 5: *1 being poor, 5 being great*).

CFAS/ALPHA Award Scoring

Novelty: How original and innovative is the project/research?

Design: How well-thought out is the project? Is the experimental design an efficient and thoughtful way of addressing the questions asked?

Methodology: How reliable are the methods used to collect and analyze data? Are the methods used effective for the work? Are there any factors that could lead to the misinterpretation of data? Are there any techniques that could influence the results?

Presentation: How clear was the speaker when explaining the outcomes? Were you captivated by their presentation? Were the slides (or poster) easy to follow, concise yet informative, visually appealing?

Thoroughness: Did the presentation and project cover all aspects of the hypothesis in question? Were concluding statements backed up by evidence? Were outliers or inconsistencies addressed?

Significance or Impact in the Field of Clinical Embryology: How big of a difference does the work have in your field? Is this ground-breaking research? What other answers (or questions!) can we get from this project?

The winning abstract must be of interest to the audience who attend the ALPHA meeting i.e. clinical embryologists.

Each candidate must be scored by at least 3 members of the ART Lab Special Interest Group. To avoid inappropriate/unfair scoring, the following rules apply:

- A candidate must not score themselves
- A candidate cannot be scored by someone who identifies a conflict of interest with scoring their presentation (e.g. a someone should not score a colleague who works in the same clinic or a friend)
- Each score must be justified by a sentence explaining the score. For example: “I think this presenter deserves at 4/5 on their presentation since they spoke clearly, explained results in a concise manner in a way that was scientifically accurate but still understandable to those with less knowledge of embryology, and because they handled the questions well, clearly understanding their own work. However, when questioned about techniques, they could have done a better job of explaining and defending their methods”

The final scores must be approved by the CFAS Board of Directors. The CFAS Office will inform the CFAS/ALPHA Award Winner about their award via a PDF letter emailed to the recipient. Should the recipient accept, CFAS will notify ALPHA and provide the winner’s name for accommodation booking and registration.

Due to the increasing flight prices closer to the date of travel, the CFAS Office requests that should a recipient accept the award and wish to travel to the conference, that flights be booked a minimum of 5 months prior to the date of travel. Exceptions will be considered upon request.

Organization:	Canadian Fertility and Andrology Society
Policy:	CFAS/ALPHA Award
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