The Department of Family and Community Medicine at Northeast Ohio Medical University (NEOMED) is sponsoring its 35th annual poetry writing competition during the 2016-2017 academic year. The competition is open to students attending colleges of medicine or osteopathy in the United States and Canada. Preliminary judging will be done by the Wick Poetry Center at Kent State University, and final judging will be by Richard M. Berlin, M.D., psychiatrist and poet from the University of Massachusetts Medical School. The editors of the Journal of Medical Humanities will review the winning poems and consider them for publication.

- Entries must be postmarked no later than Dec. 31, 2016.
- Each participating student is permitted three entries.
- Poems must be typed on 8.5 x 11 inch paper.
- Poems must be written in English and can reflect medical as well as non-medical subjects.
- Three copies of each poem must be submitted.
- A separate cover page should be attached to the original copy of each poem and should include the poet’s name, current address and phone number, permanent address and phone number, email address, name of the poet’s college or school of medicine or osteopathy (United States and Canada only) and the title of the work.
- All entries will undergo blind review and should contain no identifying information other than the title of the poem.
- Winning poetry will be selected on the basis of craftsmanship, originality and content.
- Each poem must be original, unpublished (except for college publications) and must not have been a contest at the time of submission. Previous monetary winners in the William Carlos Williams poetry competition are not eligible.
- Each poem is not to exceed 750 words.
- Receipt of entries will not be acknowledged unless a self-addressed, stamped envelope is included.
- Entrants must be enrolled in programs leading to the Doctor of Medicine or Doctor of Osteopathy degree.
- Winning poets will be notified by March 1, 2017.
- The top three poets will be awarded $300, $200 and $100 respectively. In addition, the three winners will be invited to visit NEOMED on April 21, 2017, to read their poems. All travel expenses will be paid by NEOMED’s Department of Family and Community Medicine.
- Please indicate on the cover sheet if you read this information on a displayed poster or electronically.

Please contact Ann Williams at awwillia@neomed.edu with any questions.