

Established in 1980 by Dr. Eric Robinson in memory of his wife, the Joan Cahalin Robinson Prize is awarded annually for the best-presented paper by an individual delivering his or her first paper at the SHOT annual meeting. Candidates for the award are judged on the quality of the historical research and scholarship of the paper, but special attention is paid by the awards committee to the effectiveness of the presentation.

Score (1-4)	Evaluation Criteria	Distinction (4 points)	Above Average (3 points)	Benchmark (2 points)	Inadequate (1 point)
	Organization. <i>Specific introduction and conclusion, sequenced material within the body, and transitions</i>	Organization, clearly and consistently observable, is skillful and makes the content of the presentation cohesive.	Organization is clearly and consistently observable within the presentation.	Organization is intermittently observable within the presentation.	Organization is not observable within the presentation.
	Central Thesis.	Central thesis is compelling (precisely stated, appropriately repeated, memorable, and strongly supported.)	Central thesis is clear and consistent with the supporting material.	Central thesis is basically understandable but is not often repeated and is not memorable.	Central message can be deduced, but is not explicitly stated in the presentation.
	Supporting Materials. <i>Includes evidence, explanations, examples, illustrations, statistics, analogies, quotations from or appropriate references to relevant authorities.</i>	Supporting materials make appropriate reference to information or analysis that significantly supports the presentation or establishes the presenter's credibility/ authority on the topic.	Supporting materials make appropriate reference to information or analysis that generally supports the presentation or establishes the presenter's credibility/ authority on the topic.	Supporting materials make appropriate reference to information or analysis that partially supports the presentation or establishes the presenter's credibility/ authority on the topic.	Insufficient supporting materials make reference to information or analysis that minimally supports the presentation or establishes the presenter's credibility/ authority on the topic.
	Delivery techniques. <i>Includes posture, gesture, eye contact, and vocal expressiveness.</i>	Delivery techniques make the presentation memorable, compelling, and engaging. Speaker appears polished and confident.	Delivery techniques make the presentation interesting and effective. Speaker appears comfortable	Delivery techniques make the presentation understandable and partially support the effectiveness of the presentation. Speaker appears tentative.	Delivery techniques detract from the understandability of the presentation and undermine the presentation's effectiveness. Speaker appears uncomfortable.
	Ability to extemporize. <i>Answering audience questions with facility and with a command of necessary information.</i>	Impressive extemporaneous performance, drawing on a high level of knowledge, providing comprehensive answers to more sophisticated questions, and relating answers skillfully back to the presentation.	Comfortable speaking extemporaneously, demonstrating a good level of knowledge, and answering more sophisticated questions with explanations and useful elaboration.	Somewhat comfortable speaking extemporaneously. Can provide answers to both rudimentary and more sophisticated questions but is tentative or fails to elaborate.	Appears uncomfortable speaking extemporaneously. Lacks command of relevant information, and is able to answer only rudimentary questions clearly.