Royal College of Physicians

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RCP virtual poster competition 2027

Lead authors

Who can submit an abstract?

Only the lead author, named as the lead author on the submission can complete the application and submit their abstract. The person who submits an abstract is automatically assigned the role of lead author on our competition platform and this CAN NOT be changed, once submitted**.**

Who should be the lead author?

We are unable to provide support in deciding who you allocate as lead author, but please note that this individual must meet all the eligibility criteria below for the submission to be accepted.

The lead author submitting the abstract will receive all communication from us, regarding the abstract submission and will be listed the lead author on any certificates, if applicable.

Who will be the presenting author?

If your abstract is successfully shortlisting, the lead author will be the presenting author and will be invited to attend a competition panel, held online via MS Teams. The lead author must be the person who will present the poster and will be the person who is credited for giving an oral presentation.

What are the eligibility criteria for lead authors?

This competition is open to resident doctors working in the medical specialties at all levels – including international medical graduates, foundation doctors, internal medicine trainees (IMT), higher specialty trainees (HST) and MTI doctors – as well as medical students and locally employed doctors working at an equivalent level to those in training (e.g. clinical fellows, senior clinical fellows).
Doctors in a HST post (or a locally employed equivalent) should be working in an RCP recognised medical specialty. To be eligible, you must not be expecting to complete training (i.e. obtain your CCT) before 31 December 2027.
Lead authors must also be an active subscribing member of the RCP. If you are not a member you will need to start your membership before applying and remain a subscribing member throughout the duration of the competition. You can read about the host of membership benefits and how to join at the RCP website.

How many posters am I allowed to submit?
You can submit as many abstracts as you wish into one category and can submit multiple abstracts into multiple categories too.

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Co-authors

I produced the work of my abstract jointly with others, can I submit an abstract as a joint author?

No, unfortunately an abstract must not be submitted jointly- there can only be one lead author, and they will present the poster if successfully shortlisted.

How do I acknowledge others who I worked together with, to produce my abstract?

All other authors must be named as a co-author.

What are the eligibility criteria for co-authors?

This competition is open to resident doctors working in the medical specialties at all levels – including international medical graduates, foundation doctors, internal medicine trainees (IMT), higher specialty trainees (HST) and MTI doctors – as well as medical students and locally employed doctors working at an equivalent level to those in training (e.g. clinical fellows, senior clinical fellows). Doctors in a HST post (or a locally employed equivalent) should be working in an RCP recognised medical specialty. To be eligible, you must not be expecting to complete training (i.e. obtain your CCT) before 31 December 2027.

Co-authors must be working at one of the above grades to be added to your application as a named co-author. You must not include any senior supervisor on your submission, including your consultant's name. However, if your abstract is shortlisted for presentation, you may acknowledge them on your poster or verbally.

Do my co-authors need to be subscribing members?

No, only the lead author needs to be a subscribing member of the RCP – although we would encourage co-authors to consider joining the RCP to benefit from access to a wide range of events and other initiatives.

How many co-authors can I include?

You can include up to a maximum of three resident doctor or medical student co-authors who have worked closely on the project. Only those included in the abstract submission will be included on the certificate that we issue to shortlisted and winning authors.

I forgot to include one of my co-authors. Can I add them now?

You can make changes to your abstract via Shocklogic and add in additional co-authors until the closing date. After that date, no further changes or additions can be made and only the co-authors listed on the application will appear on a certificate (if applicable).

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Eligibility

I'm an international medical graduate/a doctor on the Medical Training Initiative (MTI) scheme – can I apply? Yes, international medical graduates and doctors participating in the Medical Training Initiative (MTI) scheme are eligible to enter this competition if they are still in post in the UK by 31 December 2027 and are, therefore, able to attend the virtual competition if shortlisted. Applicants must live and work in the UK for the duration of this competition, to be eligible.

I am a public health trainee. Am I eligible to apply?

Yes, applications from public health trainees will be accepted if they are subscribing members of the Royal College of Physicians (RCP).

I am currently an out-of-programme trainee. Can I still apply?

Yes, please select your equivalent training grade from the drop-down list.

I am an overseas trainee, am I eligible to apply?

No, only trainees and physicians working in England, Scotland, Northern Ireland or Wales are eligible to apply to this competition.

I am a surgical / GP resident doctor. Am I eligible to apply?

No, this is a scheme for medical resident doctors (or equivalent) working within a RCP specialty and submissions must relate to medical projects.

What are the RCP recognised specialties?

Acute internal medicine
Allergy
Audio vestibular medicine
Aviation and space medicine
Cardiology
Clinical genetics
Clinical neurophysiology
Clinical pharmacology and therapeutics
Dermatology
Endocrinology and diabetes mellitus
Gastroenterology
General (internal) medicine
Genitourinary medicine
Geriatric medicine
Haematology
Immunology
Infectious diseases
Medical oncology
Medical ophthalmology
Neurology
Nuclear medicine
Obstetric medicine
Paediatric cardiology
Palliative medicine
Pharmaceutical medicine
Rehabilitation medicine
Renal medicine
Respiratory medicine
Rheumatology
Sport and exercise medicine
Tropical medicine

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Membership

How can I become a member and how much does it cost?

You can find more details about memberships on the RCP website, use our online membership finder to find the right membership for you.

Do I have to be a member of the RCP before submitting an abstract?

Yes, the lead author must join the RCP before submitting an abstract. When the competition closes, all lead authors will be verified for eligibility including membership status. If you are not a member your abstract will be withdrawn from the competition when the competition closes. This includes memberships that have lapsed or are unpaid- please check you membership status before applying and **provide your correct RCP membership code in your application.**

How do I find my RCP membership code?

If you cannot remember your RCP membership code or the email address connected to your membership, please email membershipqueries@rcp.ac.uk who will be able to help you. They can also be contacted to support any membership renewals if your membership has expired.

I am a member of RCPE and/or another royal college, am I eligible to take part?

You need to be a subscribing member of Royal College of Physicians London (RCP) to submit an abstract for this competition. Membership of another Royal College is not accepted.

Previous submissions, other competitions and publications

I am a previous RCP regional poster competition winner. Can I submit a new abstract this year?

Yes, you are welcome to submit a new abstract.

Can I apply using an abstract that I previously submitted to this competition but was not shortlisted?

We would not recommend you submit the same abstract to this year's competition.

I have previously submitted my abstract into another competition; can I submit it into this ?

The aim of this competition is to showcase novel work. If your abstract or poster has previously won a prize at another national competition, we ask that you **do not** submit your abstract to this competition.

I want to submit this abstract for another poster competition as well. Is that okay?

Yes, however if you subsequently win a prize of any kind from another competition then you would need to withdraw your abstract from this competition

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Can I submit an abstract for a piece of research that has already been published in a journal?

No, if your abstract has been published already, you will not be able to enter this competition.

Can I submit posters that have already been presented as oral presentations in another conference but not yet published?

Yes, provided your abstract did not win a prize, you can enter this competition

Will the poster(s) submitted be published?

No, the virtual poster competition do not currently publish any submitted abstracts.

Can I submit an abstract for a piece of research that has already been presented at a conference – for example, a cardiology conference that I didn't get any prize for?

Yes, provided your abstract did not win a prize, you can enter this competition.

Can I submit an abstract for a local audit done at my hospital?

Yes, provided your abstract is not shortlisted for a national prize, you can enter this competition.

I have been asked to present my project locally at my trust/health board. Can I still submit it to this competition?

Yes, we encourage you to share your research and work at a local level.

Certificates and prizes

What do I win if I win the competition and who is eligible to receive the prize if successful?

The lead author and co-authors for all winning and highly commended submissions will receive a certificate of achievement. Lead authors (only) of winning posters will also receive a free virtual place to the RCP annual conference, Medicine 2028 and will be showcased on our dedicated webpage.

Will my consultant be listed on the certificate if my abstract is shortlisted?

No, only eligible resident doctor and medical student co-authors will be listed on your certificate.

If someone other than a co-author helps produce the poster, can they be listed on the certificate?

No, only co-authors named on the original submission appear on the certificate with the lead author.

Can I change the names of my co-authors on the certificate, if shortlisted?

No, only co-authors named on the original submission will be on the certificate, with the lead author.

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Who is eligible for the ticket to Medicine 2028 if our poster wins?

Only the named lead author who submits the application will receive a free virtual place ticket.

Abstract submissions and process

What are the abstract requirements?

Before submitting, please note your abstract must meet the following requirements to be accepted:

- Maximum of to 500 words, excluding references.
- Includes no more than two tables or graphs.
- You must crop the title out of the table/graph and include below in the body of the text. Ensure images are high resolution and any labels are readable.
- To ensure anonymity for the review process, please do not list author names in the title or body text of the abstract submission - this will cause immediate rejection of the abstract
- We do not publish studies or research carried out on animals.

Do I need a patient consent form if I am including them in a case report abstract?

No, you do not require a consent form as all patient names and other personal identifiers must be removed from your abstract

Can we include the name of the hospital or trust where the project was carried out, in the abstract?

Yes , there is no problem with mentioning the name of the hospital or trust- but we do ask that for anonymity don't include any of the authors in the abstract text.

If I have entered more than one abstract, can I present both if both are shortlisted?

Yes

What are the abstract categories?

- Quality improvement and patient safety / audit
- Education, training and medical professionalism
- Research - including clinical, translational and innovation
- Clinical / case reports / digital health

Can I apply to more than one category?

Yes

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Can I change the title of my abstract after I have submitted my application?

You can make changes to your abstract via Shocklogic until the competition closing date. After that date, no further changes can be made and the link to your abstract application will no longer be accessible.

If successful, your certificate will also display the title provided at the time of submission. We therefore advise that you carefully consider the abstract title

What happens after I submit an abstract?

1. Submit your application > receive a confirmation> you will not hear from us next until the competition closes.
2. Competition closes > the link to amend your application will no longer available and therefore no changes can either be made by you or requested.
3. Lead authors will have their membership status checked < **If you are a member-** your abstract will be marked as complete and you will receive an email stating that your membership has been verified and your abstract (s) will be sent to our reviewing panel for shortlisting.

If you are not a member - when the competition closes your abstract will be marked an incomplete and will not be sent to the reviewing panel for shortlisting. Your abstract will be withdrawn from the competition. You must remain a subscribing member for the duration of the competition and this is subject to regular checks.

Scoring

What will the reviewing panel be scoring my abstract on as part of their shortlisting?

During shortlisting, anonymised abstracts will be scored out of five against the following criteria:

- Impact
- Quality of evidence
- Originality of research
- Relevance to clinical practice

If I am shortlisted to present my poster, what will the judges be scoring my poster on during the panel competition?

During the virtual competitions, judges will be scoring against the following criteria:

- Quality of your poster design
- quality of your 3-minute presentation delivery
- your responses during the 3-minute Q&A session.

Virtual competitions – on the day

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Who will present the poster if shortlisted?

The lead author will be invited to present the poster. Co-authors are welcome and encouraged to attend the competition session but will not be invited to present- they may support the lead author during the 3-minute Q&As that follow the presentation.

What happens if I am unwell on the day? Can a co-author present on my behalf?

If you are unwell on the day, one of your co-authors can present on your behalf, providing they meet the full eligibility criteria.

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