

RCP virtual poster competition

FAQs for authors

Lead and co-authors

Who should be the lead author?

The lead author must submit the abstract and all communication regarding the abstract submission will be with the listed lead author (including any certificates if applicable). The lead author must also be the person who will present the poster should your abstract be shortlisted. 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.

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 2026.

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](#).

Who should be listed on the application form as authors / co-authors?

The lead author must be the one to submit this application and meet the criteria above. Co-author information is requested but must be limited to those who worked closely on the project and/or poster submission.

Any co-authors listed must be medical students or resident doctors. Consultants should not be listed as a co-author.

Training grade, specialty, hospital and trust/health board name must be included for all co-authors.

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.

Do my co-authors need to be subscribing members?

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.

Is it possible for the abstract to have joint lead authors?

No, there can only be one lead author, and they will present the poster if successfully shortlisted.

Who should submit the abstract?

Only the lead author must submit the abstract and not a named co-author.

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).

I cannot see where to add my consultant as a co-author.

You must not include your consultant's name at this stage. However, if your abstract is shortlisted for presentation, you may acknowledge them on your poster.

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 of winning posters will also receive a free virtual place to the RCP annual conference, Medicine 2027.

Eligibility**I am 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 2026 and are, therefore, able to attend the virtual competition if shortlisted.

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

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.

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**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 / want to submit this abstract for another poster competition. Is that okay?

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 would ask that you **do not** submit your abstract to this competition.

If you plan to submit your abstract to another national competition that takes place in 2026 and are shortlisted for presentation, you will need to withdraw your abstract from the Virtual poster competition. To withdraw your abstract please email postercompetition@rcp.ac.uk

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.

I have just heard that my abstract is going to be published / I'd like to submit my work for publication. Can I still participate in the competition?

Please contact us to discuss the timeline of your publication: postercompetition@rcp.ac.uk

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

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

No, only 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 application will be 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 application will be on the certificate, with the lead author.

Who is eligible for the ticket to Medicine 2027 if our poster wins?

The lead author will be the recipient of this ticket.

How will I know if my work will be published in the RCP Journals?

All shortlisted abstracts will be shared with the RCP Journals team for consideration into full journal articles. Unfortunately, we do not guarantee publication, and you will be contacted directly by the publishing team should your work be selected.

Abstract and submissions

What are the abstract requirements?

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

- Maximum of 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

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- We do not publish studies or research carried out on animals.

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

What happens if my abstract is shortlisted?

If your abstract is shortlisted, you will be invited to produce an e-poster to present at our RCP virtual poster competition which will be held on Wednesday 23 September and Thursday 24 September 2026.

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 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.

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.

If I am shortlisted, can I update the title of the poster to be presented?

No, if you are shortlisted to present a poster, the title of your poster must be the same as your abstract submission. Your certificate will also display the title provided at the time of submission.

Scoring

What will the judges be scoring my abstract on?

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 virtual competition, judges will be scoring against poster design, quality of presentation and your responses during the Q&A session.

Virtual competitions – on the day

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, you are however welcome to support the lead author with questions from the judge should you wish to.

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.

Please note, the submitting author would still appear as the lead author on the certificate and benefit from the free virtual place to RCP Medicine 2027 if selected as the overall winner.