

RCP virtual poster competition 2026

FAQs for authors

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 1 December 2026.

The lead author must be the submitting author and must be a current and subscribing member of the RCP. If you are not a member 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 person who will present the poster should your abstract be shortlisted. Co-authors listed must be medical students or resident doctors. Consultants must not be listed as a co-author at this stage.

The 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 and must be limited to those who worked closely on the project.

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

You can make changes to your abstract and add in additional co-authors up until the closing date. After that date, no further changes or additions can be made.

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

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

I am an international medical graduate/a doctor on the Medical Training Initiative scheme – what are the eligibility criteria for this programme?

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?

Only trainees and physicians working in England, Scotland, Northern Ireland or Wales are eligible to apply to this competition.

I am a surgical trainee. Am I eligible to apply?

No, this is a scheme for medical trainees (or equivalent) working within a [RCP specialty](#) and submissions from medicine trainees must not relate to surgical projects.

I am a previous RCP regional poster competition winner. Can I submit a new abstract in 2026?

Yes, you are welcome to submit a new abstract.

I have submitted this abstract for another poster competition. Is that okay?

If your abstract is successfully shortlisted for presentation at another competition that takes place before 23 September 2026 you will need to withdraw your abstract from our competition by emailing postercompetition@rcp.ac.uk

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

No, if your abstract has been published already, you will not be able to enter this competition (unless this is in an RCP peer reviewed journal as a result of being shortlisted on this competition)

Can I submit an abstract for a piece of research that was presented at a different conference before – 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 did not win a 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, provided your abstract did/does not win a prize, you can enter this competition.

I have just heard that my abstract is going to be published. Do I need to do anything?

If your abstract is going to be published before the final competition panel date, you will need to withdraw by emailing postercompetition@rcp.ac.uk. This does not apply if your abstract is selected for publishing in an RCP peer reviewed journal.

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

Who will receive a certificate?

The certificate will list the lead author and co-authors and the abstract title for each shortlisted poster. This will be emailed to the lead author before 31 December. It is the responsibility of the lead author to forward the certificate on to their co-authors. We can not add or amend the names of co-authors, as they will be on the certificate as they were submitted in the original application.

Please ensure that author and co-author names are added to the application in the format that you wish them to appear on the certificate i.e. John Smith and not john smith as changes cannot be made once the certificate has been produced.

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 (presented at the competition panel, if shortlisted) 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.

How do I find my RCP membership number?

If you cannot remember your RCP membership number, please email membershipqueries@rcp.ac.uk who will be able to help you.

I cannot remember which email address I use to access MyRCP.

Please email your membershipqueries@rcp.ac.uk who will be able to help you.

My membership has lapsed. How do I renew?

Please email membershipqueries@rcp.ac.uk who will be able to assist you.

I am not a subscribing member. How do I join?

You can join online via <https://www.rcp.ac.uk/membership/> or email membershipqueries@rcp.ac.uk for assistance.

I am a member of RCPE, is that okay?

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

Do my co-authors need to be subscribing members?

Only the lead author / presenting author must be an RCP subscribing member.

I'm currently a GPST1, can I still apply?

No, see RCP specialties list for eligibility

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.

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

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- all patient names and other personal identifiers must be removed from your abstract

I have recently been accepted into another competition? Can I still apply for this with the same abstract?

Yes, however should your abstract be accepted for publication in one of the RCP journals before the competition takes place, you will need to withdraw from the competition. If you receive a prize from another competition before this competition takes place, you must also withdraw.

Can I change the title of my abstract after submission?

You can only change the title of your abstract up until the close of applications, so we advise that you carefully consider the abstract title. The title on your application will be listed on your certificate in the format exactly as it is written in your abstract submission.

What will the judges be scoring 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

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

What are the abstract requirements?

The lead author must be the one to submit this application and all communication regarding the abstract submission will be with the listed lead author. Co-author information is requested but must be limited to those who worked closely on the project and/or poster submission.

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

- Maximum of to 500 words, excluding references.
- Include up to 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.
- The abstract must not have been published elsewhere, either as an abstract or as a full paper in a journal, website, or other competition outside of your Trust/Health Board. (This does not preclude presentation at another meeting within your Trust/Health Board, so long as the abstract has not been published.
- If the abstract is shortlisted for presentation at another competition before 23 September 2026 this abstract must be withdrawn from the RCP competition.
- If your abstract is accepted, 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.
- You must be available to present your poster at one of four sessions and will be notified of the date and panel time, if shortlisted.
- To withdraw your abstract please email postercompetition@rcp.ac.uk

What happens if I am unwell on the day or unable to attend? Who else can present on my behalf? Will the certificate still list me as the lead author?

If you are unwell on the day one of your co-authors can present on your behalf (providing they meet the full eligibility criteria, for example they are UK based, of the eligible career grade and are a RCP subscribing member) However, **you** will still be listed as the lead-author on the certificate and if your poster is the winner, or is awarded highly commended, **you** will be the recipient of the free virtual place at Medicine 2027, not your presenting co-author.