

The Royal College of Pathologists Science Communication Prize 2026, kindly sponsored by Sonic Healthcare UK

Guidance for applicants

Overview

This prize is generously sponsored by [Sonic Healthcare UK](#) and aims to:

- cultivate awareness amongst pathology trainees, foundation doctors and undergraduates about the importance of public engagement
- reward and recognise trainees, foundation doctors and undergraduates who have undertaken sustained high-quality science communication activities.

There will be 2 prizes, one for each of the following categories.

- Trainee category - UK pathology trainees
- Undergraduate category - UK undergraduates and foundation doctors.

The prizes will be awarded to individuals (or a team of up to 4 in either category) who have shown excellence in their science communication activities and are judged by the panel to meet the selection criteria.

Application process and timescale

All applications must be made by the person who has done the science communication work. Having a reference to back up what you have said is optional, but we strongly recommend doing so as it is likely to strengthen your nomination when it is judged. The referee can be someone from your own organisation or elsewhere; it is important that the



person is able to comment specifically about your work in science communication. The referee only needs to answer question 6 of the form.

- All applications must be made using the official form.
- Submission of an application provides consent to informal inquiries about the accuracy of any claims made in the nomination.
- Please keep the application form to a maximum of 2 sides of A4 paper (minimum 11pt text). Forms that exceed this limit may be discarded.
- An application is valid for that year's award only. Unsuccessful candidates are welcome to reapply in future years.

Please return completed forms by email to publicengagement@rcpath.org by 23:59 BST on Monday 27 July 2026.

- The 2 prize winners will be informed in Autumn 2026.
- The 2 winners will be invited to receive their prize at the College's New Fellows Ceremony in London in February 2027. Each winner will be able to bring 1 guest.

Judging panel and selection criteria

The decision on the Science Communication Prize winners will be made by a selection committee comprising the Vice President for Communications, Clinical Director for Publishing and Engagement, and a member of the public engagement team. Selection by the committee will be based on evidence of a sustained commitment to high quality public engagement activities.

Guidance on completing the application form

We are looking for a pathology trainee, foundation doctor or undergraduate (or a team of up to 4 in either category) who has contributed significantly to science communication over a sustained period including some activity in 2026. **The focus of this prize is public education (non-specialist audiences).**

Please see below for specific advice for the text-based questions.



Q2. This question is about the quality of the science communication work. Consider how you can demonstrate the high quality/originality of the activities you have undertaken, and whether you have collaborated with other organisations.

Q3. What evaluation have you carried out to ensure that your science communication work is effective? Include information on what qualitative and quantitative techniques you have used to evaluate your work.

Q4. What impact has your work had - how far did it reach? What did people think about it? How has the science communication work you have done benefitted the wider community and pathology? Think about whether you have engaged with hard-to-reach audiences, or promoted the importance of pathology for health, for example.

Q5. This must show your sustained commitment to science communication, e.g. development of resources and encouraging others to get involved in public engagement.

Q6. To have a reference is optional. However, having a reference to back up what you have said would help to support your case. Ask your referee to write here why they think you deserve the Science Communication Prize.

Eligibility of the candidate

- The prize is open to all pathology trainees, foundation doctors and undergraduates in the UK. This includes all biological science, veterinary science or medical students and FY1/FY2 doctors.
- Trainees must have been in a training post while undertaking the work for which they have been nominated, but it is recognised that some applicants may no longer be in training by the time the prize is awarded.
- Applicants must be studying their undergraduate degree or in their foundation doctor post at present or when the public engagement activities took place.

The prize

The winner of each category will be awarded £500 and a certificate. If a team is selected, the prize will be divided between the individuals within the team. Winners will be invited to accept their prize at the College's New Fellows Ceremony, with the prize awarded by representatives of Sonic Healthcare UK.



Obligations of the prize winner and conditions of award

The winner will be required to cooperate in producing a publicity photograph for our use in connection with publicising the award, and an interview with the winner will be published on the College website.

The winner must notify the College of any change in their status, location or contact details.

For any further information or queries please contact the public engagement team at publicengagement@rcpath.org or call on 020 7451 6727.

