

International Pathology Day (IPD)

poster competition terms & conditions

1. There can be more than one author of the poster that is submitted, but one person must be nominated as the main point of contact to take receipt of the prize and manage communications related to the submission.
2. Only one submission per author is allowed.
3. Resubmission of a poster that has previously been entered into an IPD poster competition is not allowed.
4. The competition is open to UK and international entrants.
5. The theme is open to individual interpretation, but entries must have pathology at their heart or be inspired by the overall theme of International Pathology Day. Information on the disciplines which encompass pathology can be found in the [careers in pathology](#) section of the website.
6. Posters should be created using the branded templates, which can be accessed from the main [International Pathology Day \(IPD\) event page](#).
7. Posters will be displayed digitally on the College website and the winners will be announced at our event for International Pathology Day on Wednesday 11 November 2026.
8. Each entry should be accompanied by the following information:
 - The corresponding author(s) name(s), and email address(es) and contact phone number(s). For posters created by multiple authors, one person must be nominated to be the main point of contact and to take receipt of the prize should the entry win.
 - The title of the poster.
 - A 2-3-minute selfie-style video describing:
 - a) What work is described in the poster.



- b) Why you undertook this work.
- c) What was special about this work.
- d) How did the findings influence future practice.

9. The competition closes at **midnight (GMT) on Tuesday the 27 October 2026**.

10. Winning posters will be featured in our post-event blog, celebrating International Pathology Day 2026 and receive:

- First prize £250
- Second prize £100
- Third prize will be a complimentary ticket to attend next year's virtual conference for International Pathology Day

11. Relatives of the judges are not eligible to enter the competition.

12. Entries will be judged by a panel of judges. The judges will select the winning posters, which in their opinion, get to the heart of pathology or the overall theme of International Pathology Day. They will consider a range of factors, summarised below. Please go to pages 4 and 5 for further detail about the judging criteria.

- Technical ability
- Originality
- Interpretation (critical acumen)
- Communication
- Presentation

Ethical standards should also be considered in the work being presented.

13. All entries must be the original work of the entrant(s) and must not infringe the rights of any other party. The Royal College of Pathologists reserve the right to undertake searches on appropriate software to satisfy themselves that this is the case.

The entrant(s) must be the sole owner of copyright in all works entered and must have obtained permission of any individuals featured in the entry (or their parents or guardians if children under 16 are featured). Furthermore, entrants must not have breached any General Data Protection (GDPR) laws when taking photographs or sourcing images and must have written consent from individuals who appear in photos.

14. Entrant/s will retain copyright to the poster they submit. By entering the competition, all entrant(s) grant to The Royal College of Pathologists the right to publish and exhibit their posters and videos in any of our publicity and on the website. No fees will be payable for any of the above uses. Entrants whose work is selected for the College exhibition also



agree to take part in post-competition publicity. While we make every effort to credit authors, including in printed reproductions of their work, we cannot guarantee this.

15. By entering, entrants will be deemed to have agreed to be bound by these rules and the competition organisers reserve the right to exclude any entry from the competition at any time and at its absolute discretion if the organisers have reason to believe that an entrant has breached these rules.
16. The Royal College of Pathologists reserves the right to cancel this competition or alter any of the rules at any stage, if deemed necessary in its opinion, and if circumstances arise outside of its control.
17. If the winners are unable to be contacted after reasonable attempts have been made, the Royal College of Pathologists reserves the right either to offer the prize to another entrant(s), or to re-offer the prize in any future competition.
18. Please note that any personal data collected in this competition will be kept only for the duration of the competition to notify the winners, and to send the competition prize to them. All information will be kept in compliance with the College's [Data Protection policy](#).



Judging criteria for the International Pathology Day poster competition

1. Technical Ability

- **Description:** Demonstrates a sound and appropriate technical approach to the research problem.
- **Specifics:**
 - Clearly outlines the methodology used.
 - Uses appropriate and rigorous research techniques.
 - Justifies the chosen methods and approaches.
 - Ensures accuracy and precision in data collection and analysis.

2. Originality

- **Description:** Presents a novel research problem or hypothesis supported by peer-reviewed citations.
- **Specifics:**
 - Identifies a unique or innovative research question.
 - Demonstrates originality in approach or methodology.
 - Provides strong support from current literature, with appropriate citations.
 - Highlights the novelty and potential impact of the research findings.

3. Interpretation (Critical Acumen)

- **Description:** Shows evidence of critical thinking and sound judgment throughout the research process.
- **Specifics:**
 - Critically analyses and interprets research findings.
 - Makes well-founded judgments and conclusions.
 - Provides a thorough evaluation of the data, considering limitations and alternative explanations.
 - Clearly articulates the significance and implications of the findings.



4. Communication

- **Description:** Effectively communicates the research background, methods, results, and conclusions in an understandable way.
- **Specifics:**
 - Provides sufficient background information to contextualise the research.
 - Explains methods and results clearly and concisely.
 - Uses language that is accessible to both experts and non-experts.
 - Structures information logically to enhance understanding.

5. Presentation

- **Description:** Presents information and imagery in a visually clear, organised and eye-catching way.
- **Specifics:**
 - **Flow:** Ensures a logical and seamless flow between sections/panels of the poster.
 - **Text Clarity:** Uses readable font sizes and styles.
 - **Image Clarity:** Ensures images, graphs, and tables are clear, appropriately sized, and well-labelled.
 - **Graph and Table Presentation:** Uses graphs and tables effectively to present data, with clear titles and legends.
 - **Legibility:** Prioritises legibility and accessibility of all content.

Additional Consideration

- **Ethical Standards:** Research must adhere to ethical guidelines, with clear disclosure of any potential conflicts of interest.

