



Hugh Platt Foundation Essay Prize

2026

Terms and Conditions

1. A certificate and a prize of £250 will be awarded to the competition winner. This certificate is presented at the New Fellows Ceremony or at another suitable Royal College of Pathologists event.
2. The essay competition is open to all UK foundation doctors. Only 1 entry per person is permitted.
3. The maximum word count for entries is 1,000 words. Word count excludes references and bibliography, and only 2 images or tables will be accepted.
4. Entries should be unique (i.e. not published elsewhere or submitted to other science/medical/pathology essay competitions).
5. Entries must be submitted in either Microsoft Word (doc, docx) format or PDF format. No other formats are acceptable.
6. The theme is open to individual interpretation, but entries must have pathology at their heart. Information on the disciplines which encompass pathology can be found in the [training](#) and [careers](#) sections of the website.
7. Each entry should use the downloadable front cover provided on the website, and all other pages should be anonymous (free of any personal information). The front page will be removed before essays go to the judging panel.
8. Entries should be emailed to training@rcpath.org. We are unable to accept postal entries.



9. The competition closes at **23:59 GMT on 11 May 2026**. The winners will be notified by email by Autumn 2026. Due to the number of applicants, we are unable to provide feedback on individual entries.
10. All entries must be the original work of the entrant and must not infringe the rights of any other party. The use of any artificial intelligence (AI) tools, including generative AI (eg. ChatGPT, Gemini), to generate, assist in generating, or substantially modify any part of the entry is strictly prohibited.
11. Entrants will retain copyright to the work they submit. By entering the competition all entrants grant to the Royal College of Pathologists the right to publish and exhibit their work in any of our publicity and on the website. No fees will be payable for any of the above uses. The winning essay will be published in the College magazine, *The Bulletin*.
12. 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 in its absolute discretion if the organisers have reason to believe that an entrant has breached these rules.
13. 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.
14. If the winner is unable to be contacted after reasonable attempts have been made; the Royal College of Pathologists reserves the right either to offer the prize to a runner up, or to re-offer the prize in any future competition.

