

Trainees' Research Medals Awards guidance

Introduction

The College's Trainees' Research Medals are awarded annually for outstanding research work undertaken by pathologists or scientists in training.

The awards are open to all trainees, scientists, oral pathologists or veterinary pathologists employed in a suitable specialty training or appropriate research/academic post during the year the submitted paper was published. The research paper must either have been either published or accepted for publication by a peer-reviewed journal.

Medals are awarded for research published in the specialties (listed below) in the relevant year (1 July 2025 – 30 June 2026).

- A Gold Research Medal is awarded for the best research published.
- Specialty Research Medals are awarded to the best candidates in each of the major specialties of the College, including:
 - Clinical Biochemistry
 - Medical Microbiology and Virology
 - Cellular Pathology
 - Haematology
 - Smaller specialties: Immunology, Allergy, Toxicology, Veterinary Pathology, Embryology and any other specialties that fall within the training schemes of the Royal College of Pathologists.



Medals are assessed for:

- potential benefits to the public and patients
- impact on the field
- contribution of the individual to the paper.

Medals will be presented at a College ceremony in 2027. The paper or a related extract by the overall winner (recipient of the gold medal) will be published on the College website and in the College Bulletin.

The aims of the Royal College of Pathologists' Research Medals scheme are:

- to enhance the status of the research of pathology trainees, both within and outside the College
- to help identify the future research stars that will provide the next generation of leadership in research
- to recognise and reward the best of the excellent science that College trainees publish, encouraging them in their research careers
- to enhance the curricula vitae of the successful individuals improves their chances of external research awards
- to generate positive publicity and the value trainees gain from the College
- ultimately, to increase research activity within pathology.

Application and supporting documentation

To apply for the award medal, you must submit the following:

- A completed application form and a photograph (for publication alongside the article).
- A single research paper. The research paper must either have been either published or accepted for publication in a peer-reviewed journal and have been written during the year then applicant was in a suitable specialty training or appropriate research/academic post.

You are asked to provide the following on the application form:

- Key details of your CV to allow conflicts of interest to be identified.



- A description in lay terms of why your submitted paper is so important (max. 100 words).
- A short summary of the main research findings and why they are important to the pathological and wider community (max. 500 words) which may be used for publication on the College website.
- Written confirmation from your research supervisor regarding your research role/duties. The research supervisor must comment on the applicant's contribution to the research and the importance of the contribution.

Eligibility criteria

- The research for the submitted paper needs to have been undertaken whilst the applicant was in a suitable specialty training or appropriate research/academic post.
- Work undertaken during a period of specialty training, including out of programme, would be eligible.

Terms and conditions

- Only one entry per person is permitted.
- Entries must be submitted in either Microsoft Word (doc, docx) format or PDF format. No other formats are acceptable.
- All entries must be the original work of the entrant 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.
- Applicants 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 or in the College Bulletin.
- By entering, applicants 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.



- 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.
- 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 medal to a runner up, or to re-offer the medal in any future competition.

Selection process

- A panel of appropriately qualified College Fellows will select medal winners in each of the five categories. The members of the College's Research Committee will then vote on the best scientific/medical paper from the chosen five, which is then awarded the Gold Medal.
- The final decision will be ratified during a full meeting of the College's Research Committee.
- If one of the applications features a paper from the same institution as a specialty research lead on the Research Committee (or if there are any other conflicts of interest), the committee member will withdraw from the review proceedings and another committee member will review the paper.
- The medals will be presented to successful applicants at a College ceremony.

