

The David Mitchell Award: Audit Guidelines

The purpose of the award is to recognise and reward **audits** that improve the care we provide to our patients and/or the education and training of our trainees.

Eligible Applicants

This competition is open to all Trainees, or a team of Trainees registered on a training scheme with the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland (RCPI) at the time of submission.

Definition of Audit

An audit is a quality improvement process that follows the systematic review and evaluation of activities against research-based standards, with a view to improving patient care. An audit is a continuous process aiming to improve patient care and practice excellence.

Submission Guidelines

Trainees are required to submit an abstract that identifies a problem where a clinical audit is used to improve the quality of care received by patients and/or education and training provided to trainees. Applicants must have made a significant contribution at the conception and implementation phases of the audit.

The abstract must demonstrate how changes in practice have been achieved through the implementation of the initial audit and the subsequent re-audit findings. Therefore, the audit must be a **completed audit cycle**, rather than a preliminary standard-setting investigation or a simple descriptive study.

The abstract must not exceed 400 words in length. This word count includes numbers.

Only one audit per trainee will be accepted. More than one audit submitted by the same trainee will be disqualified.

Submissions will be assessed for plagiarism and use of AI generated content by reviewers.

Each submission must include the following headings and details:

1. Audit Title
2. Audit background - explaining clinical relevance and area of clinical practice being measured
3. Standards/Guidelines – outlining the recognised standard being used
4. Methods of Audit - How the audit was performed including the sample size and data collection.
5. Results - Initial Audit findings and results
6. Intervention – The requirement to effect change and improve outcome based on findings from initial audit. Comprehensiveness of intervention and appropriateness of the intervention. How was change achieved?
7. Methods of Re-Audit
8. Results of Re-Audit
9. Discussion
10. Conclusion

Patient confidentiality must always be observed

Scoring System

A total of 25 marks are available:

- Appropriate standards (/5)
- Methods (/5)
- Discussion (/5)
- Initiation of intervention (/5)
- Re-audit (/5)

Further Information

Ensure that no identifiable information is provided within the submission text (e.g. name, RCPI ID number etc.) This information will be requested separately.

The material submitted may be used as an educational and training tool for RCPI trainees and will be available to Members and Fellows of RCPI.

By submitting an audit study for competition, trainees are providing consent for the RCPI to use the material as an educational training tool.

Applicants, if chosen, must be available to present their research at the Annual National Education Day for Doctors in Training, which takes place on Friday, 22 May 2026.

A number of abstracts will be selected for poster presentation. Further information on poster requirements and formatting will be provided for successful applicants.

Closing Date

Applications must be received by **12 midnight Sunday, 30 November 2025.**

The David Mitchell Award: Submission Subheading Format

1. Audit Title
2. Audit background
3. Standards/Guidelines
4. Methods of Audit
5. Results
6. Intervention
7. Methods of Re-Audit
8. Results of Re-Audit
9. Discussion
10. Conclusion