

The William Stokes Award: Research Guidelines

The purpose of the award is to support and recognise the highest standard of research by Specialist Registrars.

Eligible Applicants

The William Stokes Award is open to Specialist Registrars registered in Higher Specialist Training (HST) programmes International Clinical Fellowship Programme (ICF) with the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland (RCPI) at the time of abstract submission.

Submission Guidelines

Applicants are required to submit an abstract of their research paper.

The research may be either published or unpublished but must have been undertaken in the last 3 years. Abstracts must be based on original research in the field of medicine and/or its sub-specialties. Submissions will be assessed for plagiarism and use of AI generated content by reviewers.

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

Only one research study per trainee will be accepted. More than one research study submitted by the same trainee will be disqualified. The award will be granted to an applicant once only.

Each submission must include the following headings:

1. Title
2. Introduction
3. Methods
4. Results
5. Discussion
6. Conclusions

Patient confidentiality must always be observed.

Scoring System

A total of **40 marks** are available:

- Introduction
 - Clear and concise background information (/5)
 - Clear hypothesis/purpose (/5)
- Methods
 - Clear explanation of patient selection/clinical criteria/methods used (/5)
 - Evidence of statistical interpretation used (/5)
- Results (/5)
- Conclusions / Discussion
 - Clear statement of conclusions which can be drawn from results provided(/5)
 - Discussion of the applicability of conclusions to medical practice (/5)
- Discretionary mark for abstract which deserves special merit (/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 a research study for competition, trainees are providing consent for the RCPI to use the material as an education 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 on the day. Further information on poster requirements and formatting will be provided for successful applicants.

Closing Date

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

William Stokes Award: Submission Subheading Format

1. Title
2. Introduction
3. Methods
4. Results
5. Conclusions / Discussion