



RCP virtual poster competition 2025

FAQs for authors

If you do not see the answer to your question below, please email postercompetition@rcp.ac.uk

What are the eligibility criteria for lead authors?

This competition is open to resident doctors working in the medical specialties at all levels – including international medical graduates, foundation doctors, internal medicine trainees (IMT), higher specialty trainees (HST) and MTI doctors – as well as medical students and locally employed doctors working at an equivalent level to those in training (e.g. clinical fellows, senior clinical fellows). Doctors in a HST post (or a locally employed equivalent) should be working in an [RCP recognised medical specialty](#). To be eligible, you must not be expecting to complete training (i.e. obtain your CCT) before 1 December 2025.

The lead author must be the submitting author and must be a current and subscribing member of the RCP.

If you are not a member you can read about the host of membership benefits and how to join at the [RCP website](#).

Who should be listed on the application form as authors / co-authors?

The lead author must be the person who will present the poster should your abstract be shortlisted. Co-authors listed must be medical students or resident doctors. Consultants must not be listed as a co-author at this stage.

The training grade, specialty, hospital and trust/health board name must be included for all co-authors.

How many co-authors can I include?

You can include up to a maximum of six resident doctor or medical student co-authors and must be limited to those who worked closely on the project.

I forgot to include one of my co-authors. Can I add them now?

You can make changes to your abstract and add in additional co-authors up until the closing date. After that date, no further changes or additions can be made.

I cannot see where to add my consultant as a co-author.

Do not include your consultant's name at this stage. However, if your abstract is shortlisted for presentation, you should acknowledge them on your poster.

I am an international medical graduate/a doctor on the Medical Training Initiative scheme – what are the eligibility criteria for this programme?

International medical graduates and doctors participating in the [Medical Training Initiative](#) (MTI) scheme are eligible to enter this competition if they are still in post in the UK by 31 December 2025 and are, therefore, able to attend the virtual competition if shortlisted.

I am a public health trainee. Am I eligible to apply?

Yes, applications from public health trainees will be accepted if they are subscribing members of the Royal College of Physicians (RCP).

I am currently an out-of-programme trainee. Can I still apply?

Yes, please select your equivalent training grade from the drop-down list.

I am an overseas trainee, am I eligible to apply?

Only trainees and physicians working in England, Scotland, Northern Ireland or Wales are eligible to apply to this competition.

I am a surgical trainee. Am I eligible to apply?

No, this is a scheme for medical trainees (or equivalent) working within a [RCP specialty](#) and submissions from medicine trainees must not relate to surgical projects.

I am a previous RCP regional poster competition winner. Can I submit a new abstract in 2025?

Yes, you are welcome to submit a new abstract.

I have submitted this abstract for another poster competition. Is that okay?

If your abstract is successfully shortlisted for presentation at another competition that takes place before 5 November 2025 you will need to withdraw your abstract from our competition by emailing postercompetition@rcp.ac.uk

I have been asked to present my project locally at my trust/health board. Can I still submit it to this competition?

Yes, provided prizes were not awarded at the local event.

I have just heard that my abstract is going to be published. Do I need to do anything?

If your abstract is going to be published before 5 November 2025, you will need to withdraw by emailing Postercompetition@rcp.ac.uk. This does not apply if your abstract is selected for publishing in an RCP peer reviewed journal.

What are the RCP recognised specialties?

Acute internal medicine
Allergy
Audio vestibular medicine
Aviation and space medicine
Cardiology
Clinical genetics
Clinical neurophysiology
Clinical pharmacology and therapeutics
Dermatology
Endocrinology and diabetes mellitus
Gastroenterology
General (internal) medicine
Genitourinary medicine
Geriatric medicine
Haematology

Immunology
Infectious diseases
Medical oncology
Medical ophthalmology
Neurology
Nuclear medicine
Obstetric medicine
Paediatric cardiology
Palliative medicine
Pharmaceutical medicine
Rehabilitation medicine
Renal medicine
Respiratory medicine
Rheumatology
Sport and exercise medicine
Tropical medicine

Who will receive a certificate?

The certificate will list the lead author and co-authors and the abstract title for each shortlisted poster. This will be emailed to the lead author within 28 days of the virtual competition. It is the responsibility of the lead author to forward the certificate on to their co-authors.

Please ensure that author and co-author names are added to the application in the format that you wish them to appear on the certificate i.e. John Smith and not john smith as changes cannot be made once the certificate has been produced

Will my consultant be listed on the certificate if my abstract is shortlisted?

No, only resident doctor and medical student co-authors will be listed on your certificate.

How do I find my RCP membership number?

If you cannot remember your RCP membership number, please email membershipqueries@rcp.ac.uk who will be able to help you.

I cannot remember which email address I use to access MyRCP.

Please email your membershipqueries@rcp.ac.uk who will be able to help you.

My membership has lapsed. How do I renew?

Please email membershipqueries@rcp.ac.uk who will be able to assist you.

I am not a subscribing member. How do I join?

You can join online via <https://www.rcp.ac.uk/membership/> or email membershipqueries@rcp.ac.uk for assistance.

I am a member of RCPE, is that okay?

You must be a current subscribing member of Royal College of Physicians London (RCP) to submit an abstract for this competition. Membership of another Royal College is not acceptable.

Do my co-authors need to be subscribing members?

Only the lead author / presenting author must be an RCP subscribing member.

Is it possible for the abstract to have joint lead authors?

No, there can only be one lead author and they will present the poster if successfully shortlisted.

What are the abstract categories?

- Research - including clinical, translational and innovation
- Education, training and medical professionalism
- Quality improvement and patient safety / audit
- Clinical / case reports / digital health

Can I change the title of my abstract after submission?

You can only change the title of your abstract up until the close of applications, so we advise that you carefully consider the abstract title. The title on your application will be listed on your certificate in the format exactly as it is written in your abstract submission.

What will the judges be scoring on?

During shortlisting, anonymised abstracts will be scored out of five against the following criteria:

- Impact
- Quality of evidence
- Originality of research
- Relevance to clinical practice

During the virtual competition, judges will be scoring against poster design, quality of presentation and your responses during the Q&A session.

What are the abstract requirements?

The lead author must be the one to submit this application and all communication regarding the abstract submission will be with the listed lead author. Co-author information is requested but must be limited to those who worked closely on the project and/or poster submission.

Before submitting this form, please note your abstract must meet the following requirements to be accepted:

- Maximum of to 500 words, excluding references.
- Include up to two tables or graphs.
- You must crop the title out of the table/graph and include below in the body of the text. Ensure images are high resolution and any labels are readable.
- To ensure anonymity for the review process, please do not list author names in the title or body text of the abstract submission - this will cause immediate rejection of the abstract
- We do not publish studies or research carried out on animals.
- The abstract must not have been published elsewhere, either as an abstract or as a full paper in a journal, website, or other competition outside of your Trust/Health Board. (This does not preclude presentation at another meeting within your Trust/Health Board, so long as the abstract has not been published.
- If the abstract is shortlisted for presentation at another competition before 5 November 2025, this abstract must be withdrawn from the RCP competition.
- If your abstract is accepted, you will be invited to produce an e-poster to present at our RCP virtual poster competition which will be held on Wednesday 5 November and Thursday 6 November 2025.
- You must be available to present your poster on either day and will be notified of the date and time slot by 26 September 2025.
- To withdraw your abstract please email postercompetition@rcp.ac.uk

For ideas on how to create a winning submission, check out our RCP Digest

If you're looking for some inspiration, why not look at [last year's submissions](#).

**What happens if I am unwell on the day or unable to attend? Who else can present on my behalf?
Will the certificate still list me as the lead author?**

If you are unwell on the day one of your co-authors can present on your behalf. However, **you** will still be listed as the lead-author on the certificate and if your poster is the winner, or is awarded highly commended, **you** will be the recipient of the free virtual place at Medicine 2026, not your co-author.

You will also be listed as the lead author in the RCP virtual poster competition digest 2025.