

## **Clinical Academics in Training Annual Conference (CATAC)**

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### **Application guidelines**

Our Clinical Academics in Training Annual Conference (CATAC) is a unique cross-speciality event designed to bring clinical academics together to present their work, meet one another and network with senior researchers.

CATAC 2022 will be held on **Wednesday 7 June 2023** at the **Anglia Ruskin University in Cambridge**. This is an in-person event, with some elements such as plenary competitions and the keynote speech live-streamed to virtual attendees.

If you are an early-career medical researcher in medicine or health, with a background in any clinical discipline or speciality, CATAC is a great opportunity to:

- Present your research to an academic audience
- Develop your presentation skills in a supportive environment
- Meet with your peers and senior academics to build networks
- Raise your profile within the clinical academic and medical research community
- Meet Academy Fellows

### **CATAC 2023 Competitions**

Included in the CATAC event are three competitions for early career researchers wishing to present their research:

1. Post-Doctoral Plenary Competition – selected applicants will be asked to prepare a 10 minute oral presentation, to be followed by 5 minutes of questions from the audience. A panel of judges will score the presentations and there will be 1 winner and 1 runner up, who will each receive a monetary prize.
2. Pre-Doctoral Plenary Competition – selected applicants will be asked to prepare a 5 minute oral presentation, to be followed by 2 minutes of questions from the audience. A panel of judges will score the presentations and there will be 1 winner and 1 runner up, who will each receive a monetary prize.
3. Poster Competition – selected applicants will be asked to prepare a poster to present during the conference. Posters will be grouped according to broad research categories. Candidates will have two minutes to present their poster, followed by 1 minute of questions. A small group of judges will be assigned to each poster group, who will score each presentation; for each poster group there will be one winner one runner-up who will each receive a monetary prize. The groups are as follows:
  - a. Applied health services research; Epidemiology; Public health; Social science and research; Nursing services
  - b. Cellular and molecular biology; Genetics
  - c. Inflammation; Infection; Immunity
  - d. Neurology; Neuroscience; Imaging; Technology

Please note: you **do not** have to participate in a competition in order to attend CATAC 2023. **Event registration for non-competing attendees will open in Spring 2023.**

## How to apply:

The registration window for CATAC 2023 will **open at 12 noon on Monday 5 December 2022** and **close at 16.00 (GMT) on Friday 27 January 2023**.

For the application form, you will be asked to submit a research abstract of no more than 450 words, split into four sections: background, methods, findings and interpretation.

Submitted abstracts will be scored by a panel of Academy Fellows and senior research professionals, who will determine which candidates are invited to participate in the post- and pre-Doctoral plenary competitions and the poster competitions.

You will be able to indicate on the submission form whether you would like your abstract to be considered for the poster competition if it is not selected for an oral presentation. Depending on the number of applications we receive, we may not be able to provide every candidate the opportunity to present a poster. Therefore, you will also be able to indicate on the submission form whether you would still like to attend CATAC 2023 even if your abstract is not chosen for any competition.

A maximum of one abstract may be submitted per person as a competitor, however there is no limit on the number of abstracts you can be listed on as an author.

Please note: applicants who have previously won an event competition at CATAC will not be eligible to compete again in that category. We will accept applications from previous poster competition winners wishing to apply for a plenary competition, and vice versa.

## Abstract structure

You will be asked to complete the following sections.

### 1. Title

Your abstract title MUST describe both your research topic and methodology, for example: "A randomised controlled trial for varying dietary sodium levels in mild and moderate hypertension". *Please note: you will be asked to resubmit your abstract title if these guidelines are not adhered to*

### 2. Background

This should include: context and aims. *Maximum 100 words.*

### 3. Methods

This should include: study design; participants; interventions; analysis; ethical consent and trial registration, where appropriate. *Maximum 100 words.*

### 4. Findings

This should include: number of participants; outcomes; statistical effects; adverse events. *Maximum 150 words.*

## 5. Interpretation

This should include: general interpretation from results; significant of results; strengths and limitations of the study. *Maximum 100 words.*

### **Additional information for the Post-Doctoral Plenary Competition**

You will be asked to complete a statement on the wider implications of your research. This should concisely outline the main ways that your research may have an effect on other areas of research, healthcare or medicine that are not dealt with directly in your research. For example, research into the development of a new vaccine might change how patients with similar illnesses are treated and inform public health policy.

*Maximum 150 words.*

### **Contribution of authors**

You will be asked to provide a statement describing the contribution of each author in the study following the [CRediT Taxonomy of author contributions](#). All of the authors listed should be mentioned in this section at least once.

As the submitting author will be responsible for completing this information at submission, it is expected that all authors will have reviewed, discussed, and agreed to their individual contributions ahead of this time.

### **Please consult the following reporting guidelines, if appropriate to the design of your study**

- Reports of randomised trials must conform to [CONSORT 2010 guidelines](#) and should include a section describing randomisation and masking within the Methods section.
- Cluster-randomised trials or randomised trials that report harms must be reported according to [CONSORT extended guidelines](#).
- Studies of diagnostic accuracy must be reported according to [STARD guidelines](#).
- Observational studies (cohort, case-control, or cross-sectional designs) must be reported according to the [STROBE statement](#).
- Genetic association studies must be reported according to [STREGA guidelines](#).
- Systematic reviews and meta-analyses must be reported according to [PRISMA guidelines](#).
- To find reporting guidelines see: <http://www.equator-network.org>

### **General advice**

For support with your application, please see the [abstract booklet](#) for CATAC 2022 and watch the plenary competition presentations [here](#). You can also view the [winning oral presentations](#) and [selected abstracts](#) from CATAC 2018. Note: we have increased the word limit for abstract submissions for CATAC 2022 and 2023, so abstracts from 2018 may seem shorter in comparison to yours. Similarly, other details of the application form

have also been subject to change for CATAC 2023. Please ensure you follow the guidelines in this document.

#### Information regarding Flexi-Grant

- You will need to create an account on our grant management system Flexi-Grant before you can access the application form.
- Once you have started an application, you will be able to save your application and resume filling it out later.
- Once your application form is complete, you will need to formally submit your application, the button for which can be found in the top right portion of the webpage. Applications that are 100% complete but not formally submitted within the deadline will not be considered.
- You will receive email confirmation that your application has been submitted.
- Once you have submitted your application form, the details within it cannot be changed, therefore please ensure all information is correct to the best of your knowledge before clicking submit and contact Academy staff as soon as possible if you notice an error in your submitted form.

All queries should be directed to [programmes@acmedsci.ac.uk](mailto:programmes@acmedsci.ac.uk).