

Clinical Academics in Training Annual Conference (CATAC)

Application guidelines - Registration opens at 12pm on 11 January 2022

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 **Thursday 19 May 2022**, and is planned as an **in-person event** in **Bristol, UK, with live-streamed plenary competitions and keynote**.

If you are an early-career clinical academic with a medical, dental or veterinary undergraduate degree, looking for a chance to present your research, perhaps for the first time, CATAC 2022 will provide you the opportunity to:

- 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 community
- Meet Academy Fellows

CATAC 2022 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, with the winner receiving £2500, and the runner-up receiving £750.
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, with the winner receiving £1500, and the runner-up receiving £500.
3. Poster Competition – selected applicants will be asked to prepare a poster to present during the conference. Posters will be grouped according to research area into four 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 who will receive £1000 and one runner-up who will receive £250. The groups are as follows
 - a. Applied health services research; Epidemiology; Population health 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 2022. **Event registration for non-competitors will open in March 2022.**

Eligibility criteria for CATAC 2022 competitions

The CATAC 2022 event competitions are open to all early-career (pre- and post-doctoral) clinical academics who hold a **medical, dental or veterinary undergraduate degree**.

You must be working in the UK and affiliated to a UK-based university, research institute or hospital trust at the time of the event in order to be eligible to compete.

How to apply:

The registration window for CATAC 2022 will **open at 12pm on Tuesday 11 January 2022** and **close at 4pm on Friday 18 February 2022**.

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 interpretations.

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 2022 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.

Abstract structure

You will be asked to complete the following sections.

1. Title

This should include: description and type of study, eg: "A randomised control..."

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

You can view the [winning oral presentations](#) and [selected abstracts](#) from CATAC 2018 for support when designing your application. Note: we have increased the word limit for abstract submissions for CATAC 2022, so previous abstracts may be shorter than yours. The new word allowances are a ceiling rather than a guide, so please do not feel that you must fill the maximum allocated words for each section.

All queries should be directed to grace.cowen@acmedsci.ac.uk.