



2026 ANZCA ASM call for abstracts guidelines

Instructions for Authors

The Organising Committee invites prospective authors to submit abstracts in the disciplines of anaesthesia, perioperative medicine and pain medicine for presentation at the Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) of the Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists (ANZCA) and Faculty of Pain Medicine (FPM), to be held in-person in Auckland/Tāmaki Makaurau, Aotearoa New Zealand, 1–5 May 2026.

Abstract submission deadline: 11.59pm AEDT, Sunday 18 January 2026.

All abstracts must be submitted electronically via the ASM abstract submission portal. Authors will be notified if their abstract has been accepted in early March 2026, prior to the close of early-bird registration.

Abstract Categories

We invite submissions in the following categories, reflecting the breadth of work across our specialty:

1. Research (observational/epidemiological, basic science, clinical trials, survey)
2. Quality Improvement / Audit
3. Case Reports

Ethical Approval and Patient Consent

Where applicable, authors must provide evidence of ethical approval and patient consent. Abstracts without appropriate approvals will not be considered. Authors are responsible for ensuring compliance with institutional and national requirements.

Mode of Presentation and Prize Sessions

Oral presentations: Prize sessions will be conducted as oral presentations with slides, followed by questions. Authors accepted for ePoster prize sessions must also prepare an electronic poster (ePoster).

ePosters (display only): Authors accepted for ePoster sessions must prepare an ePoster for display.

Fast Take sessions: A small number of ePoster authors will be invited to give short presentations of their poster during themed sessions in breaks.

Prize Sessions Overview

- Gilbert Brown Prize session
- ANZCA Trainee Academic Prize session (ANZCA Trainee Research Prize and ANZCA Trainee Quality Improvement Prize)
- FPM Dean's Prize and Best Free Paper Award session
- Open Science Prize session
- ePoster Prize session

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ASM Prizes and Eligibility

Prospective authors must meet eligibility criteria by **12 midnight AEDT, 1 March 2026**.

- Abstracts will only be considered for ASM prizes (excluding ePoster and Open Science prizes) if they have not previously been orally presented or published and will not be published prior to the 2026 ASM.
- Eligibility for prize sessions is assessed based on the presenting author's details.
- To be eligible for Open Science Prize and ePoster prize, abstracts must not have been published in a journal before the ASM, however may have been orally presented.
- Prize session authors must deliver oral presentations in person.
- Changes to presenting author are not permitted after submission closure.
- Authors may submit more than one abstract for consideration at the ASM. The only exception is the Gilbert Brown Prize, where each applicant may submit one abstract only.

Gilbert Brown Prize

The Gilbert Brown Prize is a prestigious prize that is awarded annually at the ASM. Eligibility for the prize shall be limited to fellows of the college and the Faculty of Pain Medicine within eight years* of admission to fellowship of ANZCA. In the case of fellows who also hold a specialist qualification from another college or equivalent, eligibility for the prize shall be limited to fellows within eight years* of obtaining their original specialist qualification in anaesthesia or pain medicine.

The presentation must be delivered by the candidate who has submitted the abstract. Applicants may submit only one abstract for consideration for presentation in the Gilbert Brown Prize session. The prize takes the form of a medal and will be accompanied by a grant of \$A1000 for educational purposes. The Gilbert Brown Prize winner will also receive a certificate recognising the award.

* Taking into account career disruption.

ANZCA Trainee Research Prize (formerly the Trainee Academic Prize)

The Trainee Research Prize shall be awarded to the trainee or fellow, within one (1) year* of award of the Diploma of Fellowship who is judged to make the best contribution at the Trainee Academic Session – Trainee Research Prize - held as part of the Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM).

Prospective authors must meet the eligibility criteria by 12 midnight (AEDT) on 1 March in the year of the ASM. This Session will only be open to trainees or fellows to present material related to their research whilst a trainee.

The prize will take the form of a medal, and be accompanied by a certificate recognising the achievement.

* Taking into account career disruption.

ANZCA Trainee Quality Improvement Prize

The Scholar Role Subcommittee (SRSC) have established this category to recognise the importance of quality improvement activities and to recognise exceptional work in:

- Critical appraisal of topic
- Audit
- Clinical Practice Improvement Project

The Trainee Quality Improvement prize shall be awarded to the trainee or fellow, within one (1) year* of award of the Diploma of Fellowship by 12 midnight (AEDT) on 1 March 2026 who is judged to make

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the best contribution at the Trainee Academic Session – Trainee Quality Improvement Prize - held as part of the Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM). This session will only be open to trainees or fellows to present material on the importance of quality improvement activities and to recognise exceptional work in either:

- **Critical appraisal of topic**
- **Audit**
- **Clinical Practice Improvement Project**

Prospective authors must meet the eligibility criteria by 12 midnight (AEDT) on 1 March in the year of the ASM. The prize will take the form of a medal and be accompanied by a certificate recognising the achievement.

* Taking into account career disruption.

FPM Dean's Prize

The FPM Dean's Prize is awarded for original work presented in the area of pain, judged to be a significant contribution to pain medicine and/or pain research. Eligibility is limited to Faculty of Pain Medicine trainees, or fellows of FPM within eight (8) years* of admission to fellowship of the FPM. Elected fellows must be within eight (8) years* of admission to their original fellowship by 12 midnight (AEDT) on 1 March in the year of the ASM.

The prize takes the form of a certificate and a grant of \$A1,000 for educational or research purposes and will be awarded at the FPM Annual Business Meeting.

* Taking into account career disruption.

FPM Best Free Paper Award

The Best Free Paper Award is awarded for original work judged to be the best contribution to the free paper session of the Faculty of Pain Medicine. The faculty free paper session is open to all ASM registrants.

The prize takes the form of a certificate and a grant of \$A500 for educational or research purposes and will be awarded at the FPM Annual Business Meeting.

Open Science Prize

The Open Science Prize is awarded to recognise excellence in scientific work related to anaesthesia, pain medicine and perioperative medicine undertaken by any ASM registrant.

Eligibility is open to all, including trainees, fellows, and scientists in allied fields such as neuroscience or respiratory physiology. Masters, doctoral and post-doctoral researchers are also eligible.

Abstracts must not have been published in a journal before the ASM, however may have been orally presented.

The prize will be awarded to the submission judged to best demonstrate originality, rigour, and contribution to anaesthesia or related sciences. The winner will receive a certificate and \$A500 for educational or research purposes.

ePoster Prize

The ePoster Prize is open to trainees, fellows and other ASM registrants. The prize of \$A500 is to be used for recognised educational purposes. The Open ePoster Prize will be awarded to the author(s) of the poster judged to be the best of those submitted in terms of originality, scientific rigour and

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quality of presentation. To be eligible for ePoster prize, abstracts must not have been published in a journal before the ASM, however may have been orally presented.

*Career Disruption

A career disruption involves a prolonged interruption to an applicant's capacity to work, due to:

- Pregnancy
- Major illness/injury
- Carer responsibilities

Interruptions must involve either a continuous absence from work for periods of 28 calendar days or more and/or a long-term partial return to work that has been formalised with the applicant's employer.

Submission Process

- Abstracts must be submitted electronically via the ASM abstract submission portal.
- Text must be typed or pasted into designated fields; Word/PDF uploads are not accepted.
- Tables, graphs, diagrams, symbols, scientific characters, and internet links cannot be included.
- Abstracts must not exceed 600 words including references (maximum of three).
- Abstracts must be submitted by **11.59pm AEDT, Sunday 18 January 2026**. Late submissions cannot be accepted.
- The submitting author will receive an automatic email confirmation (check junk folders). If not received within 24 hours, contact the [ASM team](#).
- Abstracts may be updated in the portal until the submission deadline; no changes permitted afterwards.

Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Authors or others who have been involved in creating the content presented in the abstract are expected to disclose and describe any use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies.

Generative AI and AI-assisted technologies should only be used in the writing process to improve readability and language. These technologies should be applied with human oversight and control, and authors should carefully review and edit the result. During the abstract submission process, authors are required to include a disclosure statement in the methods section if these technologies were used. This disclosure statement will be available to reviewers and will be published with the abstract.

When AI-assisted tools are used to carry out or generate analytical work, help report results (e.g. generating tables or figures), or write computer code, this should be described in the Methods section of the abstract.

For more detailed guidance on the use and reporting of AI in relation to scholarly publications, please refer to the following recommendations from the World Association of Medical Editors:

Zielinski C, Winker MA, Aggarwal R, Ferris LE, Heinemann M, Lapeña JF, Pai SA, Ing E, Citrome L, Alam M, Voight M, Habibzadeh F, for the WAME Board. Chatbots, Generative AI, and Scholarly

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Manuscripts. WAME Recommendations on Chatbots and Generative Artificial Intelligence in Relation to Scholarly Publications. WAME. May 31, 2023. <https://wame.org/page3.php?id=106>

Abstract Format

General

- Word limit: 600 words including spaces (excluding title, author names, and institutions).
- References: maximum three, included in word count. References should be cited within the body of the abstract, using the following format [1], [2, 3]. Superscript references should not be used.
- Title: sentence case.
- Authors (including co-authors): full first name + family name; affiliations, cities, and countries.
- Language: English

Structure

- Research, audits, surveys: Introductory paragraph, followed by Methods, Results, Discussion, Acknowledgements, References.
- Case reports: Introductory paragraph, followed by Description, Discussion, Acknowledgements, References.

Notes

- For quality improvement/critical appraisal: include context, measures, inclusion/exclusion criteria, sources, keywords, subject population, data collection, and timeframe.
- Submissions for the ANZCA Trainee Quality Improvement Prize must address the specified criteria for the relevant abstract category in the methods section. Authors must disclose use of AI in the Methods section.
- Clinical Trials Registry ID (if applicable) and conflict of interest declarations must be included in the body of their abstract if authors wish for it to be considered for publication.

Review and Selection

Abstracts will be reviewed by the ASM Abstract Review Committee against the following criteria:

- Language and scientific terminology
- Introduction and aims
- Study design (for research/audit) / organisation (for case reports)
- Methods
- Results
- Conclusions
- Scientific value and originality

Authors may be asked for additional information during review. Notification of acceptance will be sent in early March 2026.

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Registration Requirements

- Accepted authors must register as in-person delegates for the ASM for a minimum of two days, prior to **Tuesday 10 March 2026** (close of early-bird registration).
- Abstracts will not appear in the program if authors are not registered by this date.

Publication

- A selection of prize abstracts may be considered for publication in Anaesthesia and Intensive Care or Pain Medicine.
- Authors must review the publication requirements for the relevant journal prior to submitting their abstract for the ASM. If you are submitting an abstract for the FPM Dean's Prize or FPM Best Free Paper Award, please review the [Pain Medicine Journal requirements](#). Authors submitting for all other ASM prizes are required to review the [A&IC Journal requirements](#).
- Authors must declare in the body of their abstract whether they have a conflict of interest, i.e. personal, professional or business affiliation relevant to the paper.
- Authors must include Clinical Trials Registry details (if applicable) and conflict of interest disclosures within the abstract text.
- Abstracts cannot be published if already or will be published elsewhere.
- Authors must declare if abstracts have been submitted to another meeting and confirm if it has or will be published by another source.