

Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists Clinical Trials Network (ANZCA CTN) Strategic Research Workshop - 2026 Emerging Investigator Prize Guidelines

Aims

The aims of the prize is to encourage new and emerging clinician-researchers in the fields of anaesthesia, pain, and perioperative medicine to showcase their proposed research. It seeks to foster innovation and academic excellence within the ANZCA CTN community while supporting succession planning for the next generation of clinical trialists.

Prize criteria

The Emerging Investigator Prize will be awarded to the presenter who delivers the best proposal for a trial, or an activity directly related to a trial, as judged by the criteria below during the 2026 ANZCA CTN Annual Strategic Research Workshop. The award recognises the lead author of the submitted abstract, who must have conducted the majority of the research design personally, under the mentorship of experienced colleagues.

Eligibility of the investigator

1. Emerging investigator refers to someone who:
 - a. Has not previously been listed as a CIA or CIB on a competitive category 1 funding grant with the exception of ANZCA grants.*
 - b. Has not previously been the chief investigator (CIA) of a large (i.e. ≥ 5 sites) multi-site study.
2. Fellows of ANZCA and/or the Faculty of Pain Medicine (FPM)
3. Applications from ANZCA and/or FPM trainees are eligible if they have a nominated supervisor who is a fellow of ANZCA or FPM for their application. ANZCA and FPM trainees are required to contact the CTN office to discuss before submitting an application. Eligibility will be decided by the ANZCA CTN Executive Chair.
4. Fellows and trainees of other specialist medical colleges will be considered at the discretion of the CTN which will also require that the team (including at least one co-investigator) consists of ANZCA/ FPM fellows with a key leadership role. Non-ANZCA / FPM fellows, trainees or junior medical officers are required to contact the CTN office to confirm eligibility before submitting an application. Eligibility will be decided by the ANZCA CTN Executive Chair.
5. The Emerging investigator must be registered as a delegate for the CTN workshop

*The definition of category 1 funding is: Australian Competitive Grant Research Income. The grants classified as Category 1 opportunities are highly competitive and available to researchers Australia-wide. The major funding bodies that fall within Category 1 are Australian Research Council (ARC), National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC), and Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF). In New Zealand, this definition would apply to NZ Health Research Council grants.

Application for the prize

1. Applicants for this prize should apply through the abstract submission process for the CTN Workshop.

Triaging

2. Applications will be triaged by the ANZCA CTN Executive based on the eligibility criteria above and criteria outlined in the abstract submission guidelines.
3. If there are more eligible applicants than presentation slots available, the applications will be triaged based on the abstract score.

Adjudication

1. Judges will be appointed annually by the chair of the ANZCA CTN Executive.
2. The prize will be judged by a panel of individuals:
 - a. Two members of the ANZCA CTN Executive, and
 - b. One additional member (could be a non-ANZCA CTN Executive member) who is a senior research methodologist
3. The judges will use the attached template to judge the prize.
4. Only one prize will be awarded – the prize cannot be split among the eligible presenters.
5. The prize will be awarded at the annual ANZCA CTN Strategic Research Workshop conference dinner by the chair of the ANZCA CTN Executive.

The Prize

1. The prize will consist of a certificate and a monetary prize for \$A1000 donated by the ANZCA Foundation.
2. Award of the prize does not imply endorsement of the project by the ANZCA CTN.

CTN office contact

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**The ANZCA CTN Prize for the Best Presentation by an Emerging Researcher at
the 2026 ANZCA CTN Strategic Research Workshop**

| CRITERION | AVAILABLE POINTS | ALLOCATED POINTS |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| ABSTRACT | | |
| 1. Conforms with guidelines for meeting abstracts | 4 | |
| 2. Clear statements of justification, methods, opportunities, risks and challenges | 4 | |
| 3. Aligns with oral presentation | 2 | |
| Sub-total | 10/100 | |
| PRESENTATION CONTENT | | |
| 1. Originality, relevance, importance of concept | 8 | |
| 2. Critical review of literature | 8 | |
| 3. Clear hypotheses and primary outcome variable | 8 | |
| 4. Sound design and project plan | 8 | |
| 5. Appropriate statistical analysis plan | 8 | |
| Sub-total | 40/100 | |
| PRESENTATION STYLE | | |
| 1. Timing (ineligible if speaks for more than the allotted time; score = 0 if speaks for the whole allotted time [even if additional time is allowed for questions]) | 10 | |
| 2. Clarity and accuracy of slides | 10 | |
| 3. Clarity of verbal presentation | 10 | |
| 4. Discussion and responses to questions | 10 | |
| 5. Communication style | 10 | |
| Sub-total | 50/100 | |

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|--------------|------------|--|
| TOTAL | 100 | |
|--------------|------------|--|

Change control register

| Version | Author | Approved by | Approval Date | Modifications |
|---------|-------------|------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| 1.0 | Paige Druce | ANZCA CTN Executive | 4 March 2025 | |