

SOA26 – Rising Star Award Submission Guidelines

Deadline for submissions: Monday 16th February 2026, 11:59am (GMT)

Rising Star: Early Career Investigator Award

Recognising outstanding science in intensive care medicine

The Intensive Care Society wishes to promote and encourage the presentation of the best critical care science in the UK. The ICS Rising Star is awarded annually to an early career investigator (nurse, AHP or doctor) who has shown excellence in science relevant to intensive care.

A maximum of five submissions will be shortlisted for the Rising Star oral presentation at SOA26 taking place 30 June – 2 July 2026 at the ACC Birmingham. The time allocated for each presentation is 15 minutes (10 minutes presentation, plus 5 minutes Q&A).

Eligibility: This award is only for early career researchers who are within five years of completing a substantial body of research such as completion of an MD or PhD. This opportunity is not available to experienced researchers.

Presentation and Publication

If selected to give an oral presentation, your session will be recorded and available for registered delegates to watch on demand for six months after the Congress. The winner will be selected by a panel of judges from the Intensive Care Society and will be announced during the Closing Plenary session on Thursday 2 July 2026.

The winner will receive a [complimentary 3 day registration for SOA27](#).

If not accepted to give an oral presentation, you may be offered the opportunity to present in a poster session. All accepted (oral or poster) abstracts will be published in the Journal of Intensive Care Society (PubMed Indexed).

Certificates

All applicants selected for an oral presentation will receive a certificate for their portfolio.

Key deadlines

Deadline	Date
Abstract submission deadline	16 February 2026
Authors notified of outcome	27 March 2026
Presenting authors confirm acceptance of their place	3 April 2026
Deadline to register for SOA26	12 June 2026
SOA26	30 June – 2 July 2026

Queries

If you have any queries about the submission process or you want to withdraw your submission please contact us at research@ics.ac.uk.

Submitting your application

Submitting an abstract is a multi-step process. Some questions are marked '**required**' and you will not be able to complete your submission until these questions have been answered. Once these questions have been answered please upload your submission where prompted.

Submission agreement

You will need to confirm your acceptance of the submission terms and conditions before proceeding – these are as set out below:

- All correspondence will be sent to the submitting author. It is the responsibility of this person to pass on any relevant information regarding the submitted abstract and the Congress to the presenting author and co-authors.
- If accepted the presenting author must register and pay for a three-day in-person Congress ticket at the appropriate rate for the presenter according to their professional status by 12 June 2026. Failure to register by this date may result in your presentation being withdrawn from the Congress programme.
- It is the responsibility of the presenting author to arrange and pay for their own travel and accommodation as required.
- The authors agree that the Intensive Care Society will publish all abstracts from SOA26 in JICS and may record the presentation for subsequent use, as deemed appropriate, unless discussed and agreed in advance. If for any reason your abstract cannot be published, please specify when completing your submission.

Agreement

I agree to be responsible for the organisation of the presentation and will ensure that I adhere to all stipulated including acknowledgement of the review outcome, registration of the presenting author and, where relevant, the submission of presentation slides. I understand that to present at the event, the presenting author must register for a three-day in-person ticket the appropriate ticket category (at the time of the event)

Contact details

Please enter the contact details of the person submitting the abstract. Please note that all correspondence will be to this person, therefore it is important that we have accurate and up-to-date contact details. Please email research@ics.ac.uk if there is subsequently a change in contact details.

Applicant information

Please enter the details of the main author associated with this abstract.

Additional details

Please enter your occupation, grade, city/ region and any co-authors associated with this abstract. Co-authors are not mandatory.

Abstract cannot be published - if for any reason your abstract cannot be published, please tick the not for publication box.

Upload area

Please upload your abstract as a word document (.doc or .docx), maximum file size 5mb.

General style guidelines

- Use standard abbreviations only and place in parentheses after the full text description the first time used
- Use generic drug names
- If referencing proprietary products or equipment, include the manufacturer's name and location in parentheses
- Graphs, tables and images can be inserted. All images, symbols, tables, graphs and lines should be clear and distinct (Maximum file size 5MB)
- Please check your abstract carefully as it will not be edited prior to publication

Applications should be structured under the headings

Note this can describe a body of research work conducted by the applicant and does not need to be restricted to a single study

- Applicant profile
 - Include details on previous research experience and career information.
- Hypothesis and significance of your research
 - Include in this section the significance of the issue being addressed and relevance to critical care
- Objectives or research questions
- Study design and methods
- Results
- Conclusion
- Future research directions

Details of any grant(s) or personal awards received for this work.

References

- Include a maximum of ten references
- References should conform to the Vancouver reference style. More information and examples are included [here](#).

Hitting the next button will submit your abstract, and you will receive an email confirmation that your submission has been submitted. Please contact us research@ics.ac.uk, if you do not receive confirmation that it has been received.

Review criteria

Reviewers will score applications using the judging criteria listed below. A score of ten is the highest that can be awarded. A score of one is given when the submission cannot be judged due to the lack of information provided. It is the responsibility of the person submitting the abstract to ensure that the abstract addresses the following criteria:

- Originality and relevance to intensive care
- Quality of study design/methods
- Adequate analysis methods and presentation of results
- Evidence of impact
- Body of research similar to a PhD or equivalent
- Evidence of consideration of future research directions