

Awards for 'Best Presentations' at the 2023 Australian Podiatry Conference

Introduction

It has long been recognised that presenters at the Australian Podiatry Conference exert a great deal of effort to deliver a paper or poster. Further, the research presented will often have a significant impact on practice and/or policy. In recognition of this effort and its potential impact, a series of awards will be provided by the Australian Podiatry Association

The following are the awards.

Awards

1. JFAR Best Research Paper

To be awarded to the investigator(s) of the best paper containing original research (quantitative or qualitative research). The paper will present research of international standing and generally be of sufficient magnitude that multiple investigators are involved. The research needs to be of international significance and the presentation needs to be of high quality from an educational perspective.

2. Best New Investigator (Honours and Higher Degree Research Student awards)

To be awarded to a new investigator who has not previously presented at a significant level at an Australian Podiatry Conference. There will be up to two awards available: (1) for an inexperienced researcher who has completed a research project for an Honours degree, and/or (2) for a researcher who has completed a research project for a Masters or PhD degree. The paper should present original research. The research needs to be of international significance and the presentation needs to be of high quality from an educational perspective.

3. Best Non-Research Paper

To be awarded to the presenter of the best paper containing material of a non-research nature (i.e. no research project has been performed). For example, the topic may relate to policy, international practice or a new innovation.

4. Best Poster (Honours/Non-Researcher and Established Researcher awards)

To be awarded to the investigator(s) of the best poster(s) containing original research. There will be up to two awards available: (1) for either a non-researcher, or an inexperienced researcher who has completed a research project for an Honours degree, and/or (2) for an established researcher. The research needs to be of international significance and the presentation needs to be of high quality from an educational perspective.

5. SEPA (“Sports Exercises Podiatry Australia” formerly AAPSM) Best Sports-related Paper (New and Established Investigator awards)

To be awarded to the investigator(s) of the best paper(s) containing original research (quantitative or qualitative research) that is related to sports medicine. There will be up to two awards available: (1) for a new investigator who has not previously presented at a significant level at an Australian Podiatry Conference, and/or (2) for an established investigator. The research needs to be of international significance and the presentation needs to be of high quality from an educational perspective.

Judging

Four members of the Australian Podiatry Association will be involved in the judging and will make up the ‘Judging Panel’. The members will preferably have a PhD or Masters by Research degree and come from an education or policy background, or have high level public sector or clinical practice experience. Ideally, one member of the conference committee (i.e. from the host state or country) will come from a clinical background. A minimum of two members of the panel will be required to judge each presentation or poster. Areas to be assessed will include:

- Presentation/delivery including visuals*
- Validity of methods/content
- Appropriate conclusions
- Significance of the project
- Clinical relevance

*within the control of the presenter.

Presentations/posters will be short-listed (i.e. targeted) from the quality of the abstract submitted prior to the conference. Short-listing will be carried prior to the conference by the Chair of the Awards Committee and another person delegated by the Chair. Keynote and invited speakers will not be eligible for these awards, nor will members of the Awards Committee if they present a paper or poster. If a paper or poster is nominated where a member of the panel is one of the investigators (e.g. an Honours or PhD supervisor), and it is thought that the paper or poster is highly deserving of an award, then that panel member will abstain from judging the paper or poster (or preferably announce that they are not eligible to receive the award due to a competing interest). In the situation where a committee member presents a paper on behalf of a colleague (e.g. an Honours or PhD student they have supervised), then this would rule the paper out of contention. If necessary, one or two further members of significant standing in the profession will be asked to assist deliberations, one being the conference Chair. Note that if the committee feels that there are no presentations/posters that meet the required standard for a given award then that award will not be given that year.

Award presentation and announcements

Recipients of the awards will be announced at a stand-alone session dedicated to award finalists and winners of the awards will be presented with a certificate, which will be organised by the Chair in conjunction with the APodA later on, they will receive a framed copy of the award certificate. The chief investigator only (e.g. the presenter) will receive the award if there are multiple investigators on the paper or poster. In addition, an announcement of the winners of each award will be made in *Stride* (official magazine of the Australian Podiatry Association) following the conference.