

Announcing the Commission on Cancer 2026 Cancer Research Paper Competition

The Commission on Cancer (CoC) and American Cancer Society are hosting a paper competition for physicians-in-training to foster the importance of oncologic research in support of its mission. Papers can be submitted under one of the two following categories: CLINICAL RESEARCH or BASIC SCIENCE. First, second and third place winners will be selected from each category.

CoC Mission

The Commission on Cancer is a consortium of professional organizations dedicated to improving survival and quality of life for cancer patients through standard-setting, prevention, research, education, and the monitoring of comprehensive quality care.

Requirements

- Only abstracts – not full papers – will be accepted in either the Clinical Research or Basic Science category. The deadline for submission is **June 8, 2026**
- Title should be all CAPS.
- List authors and institutions under the title, but do not reference authors or institution within the abstract.
- Body of abstract should be limited to 250 words or less and should include the following headlines, in **bold**:
 - Background
 - Methods
 - Results
 - Conclusion
- 1 table or 1 figure/image is permitted. Embed under Results section.
- Abstract is limited to one page.
- Case reports will not be accepted

Abstracts that do not adhere to these criteria will be disqualified

Judging Criteria

Clinical Research: Originality, scientific merit, clinical relevance to oncology, and the mission of the CoC.

Basic Science: Originality, scientific method, technical complexity, and potential to be translated into practice.

Eligibility

- The competition is open to all Residents and fellows-in-training. Medical students are not eligible.
- The abstract topic must be specific to oncology and related to the mission of the Commission on Cancer.
- To be eligible for presentation at a national level, abstracts submitted may have been previously presented at local or regional meetings. Abstracts cannot be previously published or under consideration for review of publication in a national journal.

Awards and Presentation of Papers

The national award winners from each category, Clinical Research and Basic Science, will be notified by August 2026.

First place winners will each receive:

- \$1,000 honorarium (plus domestic travel expenses, if travel is required).
- An opportunity to present their research to a national audience at the CoC Plenary Session in September 2026.

Second and third place winners will each receive:

- \$500 cash award

All winners are encouraged to:

- Provide a recording of their research presentations that will be posted to the American College of Surgeons' website.
- Submit their research for publication after the CoC Plenary to the *Journal of the American College of Surgeons* (acceptance is not guaranteed).

Judges

Abstracts will be reviewed by the CoC State Chair Paper Competition Advisory Group:

Maria Castaldi, MD, FACS/Committee on Cancer Liaison Chair
Quan Ly, MD, FACS/Committee on Cancer Liaison Vice-Chair
Nitin Mishra, MBBS, FACS/Advisory Group Chair

Ravi Chokshi, MD, FACS
Jessica Cintolo-Gonzalez, MD, FACS
Danielle DePeralta, MD, FACS
Michele Gage, MD, FACS
Kelly Hewitt, MD, FACS
Amanda Kong, MD, FACS
Kelsey Larson, MD, FACS
James McCormick, DO, FACS
Dustin Nowotny, DO
Daniela Ochoa, MD, FACS
Richard Royal, MD, FACS
Maria Russell, MD, FACS
Dominic Sanford, MD, FACS
Parth Shah, MD, FACS
Vassiliki Liana Tsikitis, MD, FACS
Danny Yakoub, MD, PhD, FACS

Questions and abstract submissions should be sent to: **Melissa Leeb**, mleeb@facs.org