



Competition

AIMS Research Competition 2024 Regulations

1. Definitions

- 1.1.** The **AIMS Research Competition 2024** is a component of the AIMS Meeting 2024 aimed at participants who have previously completed the AIMS Meeting 2024 registration and have On-site tickets.
- 1.2.** It is divided into three rounds: Abstract Submission, Poster Sessions and Plenary Session.
- 1.3.** A **Presenting Student** is defined as a student who participates in the AIMS Research Competition, has an On-site ticket and presents in the Poster Sessions.

2. Competition's Goals

- 2.1.** To recognize and reward students' achievements in basic, clinical and translational research.
- 2.2.** To value and instill the importance of research work in (bio)medical students' curricula.
- 2.3.** To serve as a learning opportunity for both participants and spectators.
- 2.4.** To provide the opportunity for students to integrate world renowned research groups.

3. Terms of Participation

- 3.1. All participants who register in the Research Competition must purchase On-Site tickets during AIMS Meeting's registrations in order to proceed to the Poster Sessions.
- 3.2. The research work may be submitted individually or in pairs.
- 3.3. Each original research work may have several non-presenting authors, provided that the presenting student(s) is/are one of them.
- 3.4. The candidate must fit in one of the following conditions:
 - 3.4.1. Be an undergraduate or postgraduate student, currently attending a health or biomedical sciences course; or a Master's Degree student of the same field;
 - 3.4.2. Be a student who graduated (from Bachelor's degree or Master's degree) since January 2024 but conducted their research work while being a student.
 - 3.4.3. Each candidate may only submit one abstract for consideration.
- 3.5. Any research abstract already selected in a previous edition of AIMS Meeting can be submitted again, as long as it has not been awarded with a monetary or internship prize.
- 3.6. Participation by any member of the AIMS Meeting 2024 Organising Committee or Task Force, as well as by any invitee, speaker, keynote lecturer, workshop coordinator or trainer is not allowed.

4. Competition's Scope and Areas

- 4.1. Merely original research work is accepted. This means that only observational or experimental studies and meta-analysis are eligible to be submitted. Therefore, a systematic review would **only** be eligible if it is statistically

supported by a meta-analysis. The candidate must not submit clinical cases, literature reviews or systematic reviews not supported by meta-analysis, or other types of work.

4.2. Projects already published or presented in other conferences are **eligible** to participate in the AIMS Meeting Research Competition.

4.3. The abstracts eligible for submission and acceptance into the Research Competition must belong to one of the following categories:

4.3.1. Basic Research: Includes animal experiments, cell studies, biochemical, genetic and physiological investigations, and studies on the properties of drugs and materials with biomedical applications. It comprises areas such as Molecular and Cell Biology, Microbiology, Immunology, Neurosciences, Pharmacology and Biochemistry, among others.

4.3.2. Clinical Research: Includes both experimental and observational studies. It involves any research that deals with patients. It comprises areas such as Medicine, Public Health and Surgery, among others.

4.3.3. Translational Research: Includes basic science studies in human samples that actively investigate and pursue clinical application. It may comprise the same areas as the ones suggested in 1.3.1.

4.3.4. Bioengineering and Bioinformatics Research: Includes both engineering and informatics applications that must have an evident biomedical component.

4.3.5. Any work that is not included in these categories may be submitted as well. Nevertheless, it will be evaluated on a case by case basis, and the Organising Committee reserves the right to not accept a work if they consider its scope falls outside the AIMS Meeting Research Competition's criteria.

5. **Phase 1 - Registration in the Competition and Abstract Submission**

5.1. To successfully complete the registration in the Research Competition, you are required to fill in the **Research Competition Registration Form** in the following link <https://forms.gle/M6NV3u39X4R9fHzy6> until **23:59h (GMT+0:00) of 11th of January, 2024**. This form comprises the abstract submission, abstract information, presenting and non-presenting authors information, and presenting students proof of enrollment.

5.1.1. The abstract must be written in English. **It has to be organized according to the following structure: introduction, objectives, methods, results and discussion/conclusion**, and the sum of the number of words of these sections, must not surpass the 350 word count limit. The abstract must not include tables, graphs, bibliographic references or the authors' names or affiliations.

5.1.2. The abstract may be submitted even if it does not present the results and discussion at the time of the Abstract Submission Phase. However, the participant must compromise in presenting the results and discussion in their Poster Presentation.

5.1.3. Upload a **copy of the student card or proof of enrollment in a faculty**, according to **3.4.**, using the dedicated section of the Registration form. The uploaded document's name must consist of the presenting student name.

5.1.3.1. Only .pdf or image files can be uploaded.

6. **Admission to the Poster Sessions**

6.1. After the submission deadline, abstracts will be reviewed by the jury members and all candidates will be notified of the results of the abstract evaluation until the **30th of January 2024**.

- 6.2. According to the quality of the abstract and the research conducted (see section 8.), the jury determines the best applications, which are admitted in the Poster Sessions.

7. Registration in AIMS Meeting 2024

- 7.1. Submitting an abstract to the AIMS Meeting Research Competition that **meets all the criteria mentioned in sections 3. and 4. guarantees an entry to AIMS Meeting**, pending payment of the ticket, even if the abstract does not proceed to presentation in Poster Sessions.
- 7.2. In order to join the AIMS Meeting as a **Presenting Student**, the candidate must also register in the Congress and **purchase an On-site full ticket**.
 - 7.2.1. If the participant doesn't proceed to the Poster Sessions and therefore loses the intention to participate in the AIMS Meeting, he/she can request a refund for the ticket, pending approval from the Organising Committee.
 - 7.2.1.1. In order to request a refund of the ticket, it is necessary to keep the physical form of the ticket purchase receipt.

8. Jury and Evaluation Criteria

- 8.1. The jury is composed of accredited physicians and researchers invited by the Organising Committee.
- 8.2. The jury members cannot evaluate the abstracts of which they are authors or have any other type of declared conflict of interests.
- 8.3. The jury must deliberate on the abstracts, Poster and Plenary Sessions, according to the following criteria: project relevance and innovation, research design and methods, insights for future research, clarity of the writing of the abstract, organization of poster and slides, as well as oral presentation skills.

- 8.4.** Each phase of the Research Competition evaluation is independent. In case of a tie in the scores of two or more participants in any of the phases, the tiebreaker is the score obtained in the previous phases. If the tie occurs in the Abstract Submission phase, both participants will be admitted to the Poster Sessions.
- 8.5.** The jury's decision is sovereign and cannot be appealed.

9. Phase 2 - Poster Sessions

- 9.1.** The participants whose abstracts are accepted for the Poster Sessions will present their work to the jury. For this, their posters will be presented in AIMS Meeting's congress venue and will be subjected to questioning by the jury that pertains to the subject of the poster.
- 9.2.** The Poster Sessions will take place on the 16th of April. Participants will be informed about the schedule and time they are expected to be present in due time.
- 9.2.1.** Should there be, for any reason, a need to change the day or time of the presentation, the participants will be informed in due time.
- 9.3.** The poster must be **written and presented in English.**
- 9.4.** The poster must be **sent by e-mail to research.aimsmeeting@gmail.com until 23:59h (GMT+0:00) on the 12th of April.** The poster should be in .pdf format with the dimension of 70 x 100 cm and designed in a **vertical orientation.** Should, for any reason, the dimensions for the posters stated in these guidelines be subjected to change by the Organising Committee, the presenting student(s) will be informed via email. **The poster needs to include, at the heading, the participant's poster number.**
- 9.4.1.** By submitting their posters, the presenting student(s) are allowing the Organising Committee to divulge both of these files on the platform of their choosing, for effects of the Research Competition.

- 9.4.2.** Should the Organising Committee choose to do so, the presenting students' email addresses may be disclosed to the AIMS Meeting participants, so that the congress participants may contact the presenting students. The Organising Committee may also allow the participants to contact the presenting students through the congress platform, should that feature be available.
- 9.4.2.1.** The Organising Committee does not take responsibility for any emails or contacts that the presenting student(s) may receive regarding any topic not associated with the Research Competition.
- 9.4.2.2.** Should the presenting student(s) wish to not be contacted in any way by the congress participants, they must inform the Organising Committee.
- 9.5.** In case the presenting student(s) is/are not available to attend the poster session on the time they are scheduled for, they must notify the Organising Committee as soon as possible. The research work may be presented by another author, as long as they register for AIMS Meeting and meet the criteria mentioned in 2.3.
- 9.5.1.** Should the presenting student(s) not inform the Organising Committee of their inability to be present and not be present at the time scheduled, they will not be able to move further in the competition.
- 9.5.2.** Should the presenting student(s) inform the Organising Committee of their inability to be present, each case will be examined and, should no solution be found, the participant will not be able to move further in the competition.
- 9.6.** During the Poster Sessions, each participant will have **3 minutes** to answer the jury's questions. They will only have access to the questions during this time.

- 9.7. Up to three works with the highest score after the evaluation by the jury will then be presented at the Plenary Session. The participants who are selected for the Plenary Session will be informed until the 18th of April 2024.
- 9.8. If the posters do not meet the jury's minimum standards, they may decide not to select any poster presentation.

10. Phase 3 - Plenary Session

- 10.1. The Plenary Session will include no more than three presentations chosen in the Poster Sessions.
- 10.2. The abstracts accepted for the Plenary Session will be presented at AIMS Meeting's main stage, on the 19th of April, to a jury.
- 10.3. The presentation should be done in Microsoft® PowerPoint or Adobe Acrobat Reader PDF, written in English and sent by e-mail to research.aimsmeeting@gmail.com **at least 24 hours before the Plenary Session.**
- 10.4. Each presentation should be **10 minutes** long in total – 6 minutes for student presentation and 4 minutes for discussion with the jury, both in English.
- 10.5. These presentations may be recorded and/or displayed during the AIMS Meeting.

11. Awards

- 11.1. The three presentations selected for the Plenary Session will be awarded.
- 11.2. Additional honorable mentions may be awarded to other Poster Session presentations deserving special recognition.
- 11.3. The jury may decide not to award prizes if the presentations do not meet their minimum standards.
- 11.4. The prizes may not be awarded *ex aequo*.

- 11.5. Certificates of participation will be provided to all Presenting Students.
- 11.6. The results will be announced publicly **on the 19th of April 2024**.
- 11.7. All prizes are valid for a year, and as such, **must be redeemed before the 19th of April 2025**.

12. Monetary Prize Conditions

- 12.1. The monetary prize **must only be used for educational or scientific research purposes**. (This includes, for example, computers, tablets or educational devices, books and scientific magazines, congresses and faculty fees, travelling expenses for mobility programs or other internships [including the ones we provide], educational subscription fees and lab material.)
- 12.2. The monetary prize will be transferred to the winner's bank account, requiring presentation of the purchase's receipts from the receivers to the AIMS Meeting Organising Committee. All the receipts presented **must include AEFML's** (Faculty of Medicine of Lisbon Students Local Committee) **Tax Identification Number** (NIF) which is **501 234 209**, and the receipts must be sent to the e-mail research.aimsmeeting@gmail.com, with the e-mail subject "Research Competition 2024 | Award Claim", in order for us to proceed with the refund.
- 12.3. If the awarded research work is **presented by two students, the monetary prize is divided by the two students**.

13. Internship Conditions

- 13.1. Travel and lodging expenses related to the internship will not be supported by the AIMS Meeting Organising Committee or by the institutions that provide the internship.

13.2. The date on which the internship will take place will be agreed between the winning presenting student(s) and the institution that provides the internship, according to each of the part's availability.

13.2.1. If the student awarded is not available to do the internship, it shall then be awarded to the student that came second in the Plenary Session.

13.3. When there are two possible internships, the student(s) that won the 1st prize should be the first one/s to choose the preferred internship, followed by the student(s) that won the 2nd prize.

13.4. If the awarded research work is **presented by two students, they will share the same internship with the same tutor.**

14. Final Provisions

14.1. The Organising Committee reserves the right to refuse abstracts that do not fulfill the conditions expressed in these regulations.

14.2. The Organising Committee reserves the right to publish the selected abstracts in the abstract/congress book, website, congress platform (if applicable) and in publications of AIMS Meeting's partners. Any other use of the abstracts is conditioned to the authors' permission.

14.3. Deliberation on omitted or unforeseen cases not addressed by these Regulations are of the responsibility of the AIMS Meeting 2024 Organising Committee, in accordance with the applicable legislation.

14.4. The AIMS Meeting 2024 Organising Committee reserves the right to change, cancel or suspend the present Regulations at any moment.

14.5. The present Regulations are only valid for AIMS Meeting 2024.



12th of December 2023

The AIMS Meeting 2024 Organising Committee



AIMS Meeting 2024
16-19th April 2024, Lisboa, Portugal
www.aimsmeeting.org