

Heart Rhythm 2026 YOUNG INVESTIGATOR AWARD (YIA) COMPETITION GUIDELINES AND ELIGIBILITY

The Young Investigator Awards (YIA) Competition, now in its 47th year, recognizes and encourages the work of young investigators and their parent institutions. All submissions to the YIA competition will be reviewed by the YIA subcommittee (part of the Heart Rhythm 2026 Program Committee, comprised of senior researchers, clinicians, and scientists), who will select six finalists to present their work during Heart Rhythm 2026.

IMPORTANT DEADLINES

All interested applicants must submit their abstracts, indicate their interest, and provide supplemental materials before the Heart Rhythm 2026 [abstract submission site](#) closes on **December 3, 2025 at 11:59 PM Eastern Time.**

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

All authors must submit an abstract through the 2026 [abstract submission site](#). Abstracts submitted after 11:59 PM Eastern Time on December 3, 2025 will not be accepted. For guidelines about submitting an abstract for presentation at Heart Rhythm 2026, please visit our website: HeartRhythm.com

Please note that any abstract accepted into the YIA competition will not be presented during any other abstract session or be eligible for any other abstract award at Heart Rhythm 2026.

ELIGIBILITY

The YIA competition is open to any physician or scientist who is presently in a residency, fellowship, or doctoral training program, or who has been in such a program within the past three years (at the time of submission). The competition is also open to students in graduate or medical schools who are working on a problem concerned with cardiac pacing and/or electrophysiology, in the areas of clinical and basic research. The applicant must be the submitting, presenting, and first author of the manuscript considered for consideration. Multiple submissions from the same sponsor are discouraged.

Abstracts are not eligible for consideration if published prior to the annual Heart Rhythm meeting. No abstract may be presented at Heart Rhythm 2026 if it is substantially similar to material presented or to be presented at a major international meeting held prior to Heart Rhythm 2026 (April 23 – 26, 2026).

Individuals who have submitted abstracts to other major international meetings and are awaiting notification of acceptance may also submit abstracts to the Heart Rhythm Society for consideration; however, upon acceptance from another organization, it is the responsibility of the author to notify Heart Rhythm Society by February 24, 2026 to withdraw the abstract.

Manuscripts submitted to preprint servers (e.g. MedRxiv.org, BioRxiv.org, or similar) prior to the annual Heart Rhythm meeting will not impact eligibility and these manuscripts will be considered eligible for the YIA competition.

ELIGIBLE TOPICS

Any work of an investigational nature that pertains directly or indirectly to cardiac pacing and/or electrophysiology is suitable for submission. This work may be in basic science, clinical investigation, or technical innovations.

Finalists are selected based on the qualifications of the candidate and the originality, importance and scientific excellence of a project that contributes to our understanding of cardiac pacing and electrophysiology and ultimately, improved patient care. The Young Investigators Award competition submissions are reviewed and judged in one of two categories: basic research and clinical research.

PROCESS

To be considered for the YIA competition, the young investigator will need to submit an abstract during the Heart Rhythm 2026 abstract submission period (September 29 – December 3, 2025) and indicate that (s)he is interested in applying for the YIA competition. *Supporting materials will be collected at the time of abstract submission.*

Note: the abstract review process will generate a score of eligibility to compete in the YIA competition. If the submitted abstract does not meet minimum grade criteria, it will not be eligible for consideration in the YIA competition.

REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS

All applicants must submit the following materials at the time of their abstract submission to be considered for the YIA competition:

1. Abstract submitted during the Heart Rhythm 2026 abstract submission period.
2. A complete manuscript of the investigation, text typed double-spaced and including all necessary tables, figures, and graphs. The manuscript must be in a format that is suitable for submission as an original publication to the *Heart Rhythm Journal*. Book chapters, PhD theses, and review articles are not eligible for the YIA competition. The manuscript must be for the same work as the submitted Heart Rhythm 2026 abstract. **The manuscript must not exceed 5,000 words.**
3. A brief Author Statement, including a description of his/her specific role in the overall study.
4. The applicant's curriculum vitae.
5. A statement from the applicant's sponsor or chief of service defining the role of the YIA applicant to the study.

NOTIFICATION

YIA finalists will be notified via email of their acceptance by January 23, 2026, the same time all abstract notifications are sent out. **Please note that the Heart Rhythm Society will only notify the six finalists.**

PRESENTATION

The YIA competition will take place in Chicago during two sessions, one for Basic Science and the other for Clinical Research. Each finalist will be given 20 minutes: a 10-minute presentation

by the finalist, followed by a 10-minute question-and-answer session with the YIA judges. Audience Q&A will *not* be available during the YIA competition.

AWARDS

All six YIA finalists will receive complimentary registration to Heart Rhythm 2026 and a \$1,000 travel stipend per finalist, distributed after Heart Rhythm 2026 (April 23 – 26, 2026).

There will be two first prize awards: \$1,000 for Basic Science and \$1,000 for Clinical Research. The first prize awards will each receive a Heart Rhythm 2026 YIA winner plaque. The remaining four honorable mentions will each receive \$500 and an award certificate.

The results of the YIA competition will be announced in Chicago during the Heart Rhythm 2026 Awards ceremony.

QUESTIONS?

If you have any questions about participating, please contact abstracts@HRSonline.org

MANUSCRIPT GUIDELINES FOR AUTHORS

Submit a full-length manuscript related to your HRS2026 abstract to *Heart Rhythm*. The following guide is to help authors prepare their manuscripts for submission to the journal.

MANUSCRIPT AND FIGURE PREPARATION

Manuscripts must be submitted online via the Heart Rhythm [Editorial Manager site](#). For text files, Microsoft Word is required. For figures, JPEG files are strongly preferred at the standard resolutions (i.e., 300 dpi for photos, 1200 dpi for line art) and scaled to size. Please adhere to journal length guidelines. For Research Articles, that means 5000 words (includes all text—title page, abstract, main text, references, and figure legends/tables) and up to 8 figures and tables combined.

If you wish to include more than 8 figures and tables combined, the use of supplementary data is encouraged. As with other figures and tables, these are assumed to be original. If published previously, the reference must be cited with a citation of permission as required by the copyright holder. Finally, figures should not include logos, symbolic landmarks, or any other identification of origin.

Arrange the contents in the following order:

1. Title page
2. Abstract – 250 words max with subheadings: Background, Objective, Methods, Results, and Conclusion
3. Keywords (5 – 10)
4. List of abbreviations
5. Text (double-spaced, single-columned)
6. References (use journal style noted below)
7. Figure legends
8. Tables
9. Figure images
10. Supplementary material

FORMAT

Title Page

Please include a brief and descriptive title of the article (avoiding trade names and abbreviations), a short title of fewer than 50 characters, authors' full names, academic degrees, hospital and academic affiliations, acknowledgement of ALL sources of financial support, potential **conflicts of interest for ALL authors**, and the name, institutional mailing address, and email of the individual responsible for editorial correspondence and/or reprint requests. Please do not include author phone/fax numbers.

Abstract

Please include a brief abstract (without references) of fewer than 250 words for original articles. Divide the abstract into sections: Background, Objective, Methods, Results, and Conclusion that state the importance and potential implications of the observations. After the abstract, list 5 – 10 keywords suitable for indexing, followed by a list of abbreviations.

Text

Organize the text into the following sections: Introduction, Methods, Results, Discussion, and Conclusion, with appropriate subheadings to make the sections easily understood. **Studies on patients or volunteers require Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval, which must be cited in the Methods** section of the paper. For animal studies, authors must include a statement in the Methods section confirming that the study conforms to the Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals and was approved by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) at the authors' institution. A section on clinical implications for experimental articles may be worthwhile. Explain abbreviations at first mention, followed by abbreviation in parentheses, and limit use to only a few commonly accepted words. References, tables, and figures should be cited in numerical order. Avoid jargon, cliches, and laboratory slang. Place acknowledgments at the end of the text, before the references.

Authors whose native language is not English are strongly advised to seek appropriate grammatical assistance. Poorly written manuscripts are at a disadvantage.

References

Number references in the order in which they are cited in the text. Include references to unpublished material or personal communications in the text in parentheses. Abbreviate titles of periodicals according to the style of Index of Medicus, National Library of Medicine. List the first 6 authors in each reference. If more than 6, list 3 and et al. following exactly the format and punctuation shown below. The references should be double-spaced and use the same font size as the remainder of the manuscript.

Examples

References to a journal publication:

1. Kim YG, Shim J, Oh S, Lee K, Choi J, Kim Y. Electrical isolation of the left atrial appendage increases the risk of ischemic stroke and transient ischemic attack regardless of postisolation flow velocity. *Heart Rhythm* 2018;15:1746-1753.
2. Calkins H, Kuck KH, Cappato R, et al. 2012 HRS/EHRA/ECAS expert consensus statement on catheter and surgical ablation of atrial fibrillation: Recommendations for patient selection, procedural techniques, patient management and follow-up, definitions, endpoints, and research trial design. *Heart Rhythm* 2012;9:632-696.

References to a book:

3. Strunk W Jr, White EB. *The Elements of Style*. 4th ed. New York, NY: Longman; 2000.

References to a chapter in an edited book:

4. Mettham GR, Adams LB. How to prepare an electronic version of your article. In: Jones BS, Smith RZ, eds. *Introduction to the Electronic Age*. New York, NY: E-Publishing Inc;2009:281-304.

Abbreviations for periodicals cited in the references should follow the style of Index Medicus and can also be accessed at nlm.nih.gov.

Product Information

All product mentions must include company name, city, and state.

Tables

Number tables consecutively in accordance with their appearance in the text. Each table should be included on a separate page and designed for economy of space and readability. Tables must contain editable text, rather than 'pictures' of text. Notes designed in the tables and all abbreviations should be defined in a footnote.

Abbreviations should be identified in alphabetical order. Footnotes should be used in the following order: †, ‡, §, ¶, #. Avoid vertical rules. Be sparing in the use of tables and ensure that the data presented in tables do not duplicate results described elsewhere in the article.

Figure Legends/Figure

Place figure legends at the end of the manuscript file, after the references. Please upload each figure image as a separate figure file. If the figures were originally created in a Microsoft Office application (PowerPoint, Word), then please submit the source files. Other acceptable file types include EPS (or PDF), TIFF (or JPEG). For TIFF or JPEG files, the resolution for line art should be 1000 dpi; photos should be 300 dpi; combination line/half-tones should be 500 dpi. File size should not exceed 50 MB; please make sure each figure includes a label so reviewers can identify the order of the figures (i.e., Figure 1, Figure 2, etc.). Note that figure legends should not be included in the separate figure files.

Submitting to *Heart Rhythm*

Authors choosing to submit their manuscripts for potential publication in *Heart Rhythm* must submit via the [Editorial Manager](#) submission system. **Please note in your cover letter that your manuscript is embargoed** until the meeting. See the [journal guidelines](#) for more information on manuscript preparation and submission. For questions, contact the Journal Office at journal@HRSONline.org