



Award Competitions and Abstract Recognition Awards for Students, Medical Trainees, Postdoctoral Fellows, and Early Career Investigators

Earn honors to boost your CV by submitting your research to NUTRITION 2026!

Below are descriptions, eligibility details, and processes for award competitions and abstract recognition awards which will be held as part of NUTRITION 2026.

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Requirements

- Applicants must be ASN members.
- Applicants must be a presenting author of a submitted abstract.
- All undergraduate students, graduate students, medical students, medical trainees, and postdoctoral fellows will be considered for the Emerging Leaders in Nutrition Science Poster Competition.
- Descriptions and additional requirements are listed below.
- If selected for an award competition, finalists will be required to participate in a live award competition at NUTRITION 2026.

Applications for award competitions and abstract recognition awards are accepted during the NUTRITION 2026 Call for Abstracts.

Application Deadline: March 9, 2026, 11:59 PM ET

Website: [NUTRITION 2026 Abstract Submission website](#)

Eligibility Based on Academic Level

| | Undergraduate Student | Graduate Student <i>May apply to one only amongst CELA, GSRA and YMIOC</i> | Medical Student <i>May apply to one only amongst CELA, GSRA and YMIOC</i> | Medical Trainee (interns/residents/fellows) <i>May apply to one only</i> | Postdoctoral Fellow <i>May apply to any or all</i> | Early Career I Investigator (within 5 years of receiving a doctoral or terminal degree) <i>May apply to any or all</i> | Early Career II Investigator (6-10 years of receiving a doctoral or terminal degree) |
|---|-----------------------|---|--|---|--|---|--|
| Clinical Emerging Leaders Award Competition | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | |
| Diversity in Nutrition Oral Competition for Early Career Investigators | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | |
| DJPJ (Douglas J. Paddon-Jones) Trainee Achievement Awards | | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | | |
| Early Career Research Award Competition (pending funding) | | | | | | ✓ Applicants must have a doctoral degree to participate | ✓ Applicants must have a doctoral degree to participate |
| George Bray Obesity Research Student Awards | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | | |
| Global Nutrition Early Career Scholar Award | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Graduate Student Research Award Competition | | ✓ | ✓ | | | | |
| Nutrition Translation Award Competition | | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Postdoctoral Research Award Competition | | | | ✓ Applicants must have a doctoral degree to participate | ✓ Applicants must have a doctoral degree to participate | ✓ Applicants must have a doctoral degree to participate | |
| Robert Suskind and Leslie Lewinter-Suskind Pediatric Nutrition Student Awards | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | | |
| Student Interest Group (SIG) Three-Minute Thesis (3MT) Competition | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | | |

Clinical Emerging Leaders Award Competition

Organized by the Medical Nutrition Council

Purpose:

Promotes interest in clinical and human nutrition among those in postgraduate programs.

Additional Requirements:

- Open to graduate students, medical students, and medical trainees who have not received a doctoral research degree prior to the abstract deadline.

Process:

- Applicant indicates desire to be considered for this award in the designated section during abstract submission.
- During abstract submission, applicants will provide a brief statement confirming their intention to compete and describing their involvement and responsibilities in their study.
- Five finalists will be chosen to participate in an award competition at NUTRITION 2026.
- Finalists will provide a 17-minute presentation, consisting of a 12-minute talk followed by 5 minutes of questions and answers.
- Finalists will receive a certificate. Pending external funding, selected winners will receive a modest monetary award.

Diversity in Nutrition Oral Competition for Early Career Investigators

Organized by the Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Accessibility Committee (IDEA)

Purpose:

This competition provides an opportunity for graduate students, medical students, and or medical trainees from underrepresented communities within the biomedical and life sciences to participate in the annual meeting by discussing their research findings. Finalists will strengthen presentation and professional skills associated with a career in the sciences.

Additional Requirements:

- Open to graduate students, medical students, and or medical trainees who have not received a doctoral research degree prior to the abstract deadline.
- Applicants must identify as an individual from an underrepresented group in the biomedical and behavioral sciences. Individuals from the following racial and ethnic categories; Black or African American, American Indian or Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander, Hispanic or Latino American, individuals with disabilities, individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds and women from the aforementioned backgrounds are shown to be underrepresented at many career stages in biomedical, clinical, behavioral and social sciences.¹

¹<https://ncses.nsf.gov/pubs/nsf21321/report/about-this-report>

<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-20-031.html>

<https://extramural-diversity.nih.gov/diversity-matters/underrepresented-groups>

Process:

- Applicant indicates desire to be considered for this award in the designated section during abstract submission.
- During abstract submission, a brief statement must be provided that addresses the applicant's role in the research contained in the abstract and how the research connects to applicant's career objectives in nutrition science or practice.
- Six finalists will be chosen to participate in an award competition at NUTRITION 2026.
- Finalists will provide a 14-minute presentation, consisting of a 10-minute talk followed by 4 minutes of questions and answers.
- Finalists will receive a certificate. Pending external funding, selected winners will receive a modest monetary award.

DJPJ Trainee Achievement Awards

In honor of Dr. Douglas J. Paddon-Jones' commitment to early career investigator research in the areas of dietary protein, muscle metabolism, & healthy aging.

Purpose:

Recognize one graduate student and one postdoctoral fellow for outstanding research related to dietary protein, muscle metabolism, and/or healthy aging.

Additional Requirements:

- Open to graduate students, medical students, and postdoctoral fellows.
- May only receive the award once as a graduate student and once as a postdoctoral fellow

Process:

- Applicant indicates desire to be considered for this award in the designated section during abstract submission.
- A review committee will review and rate abstracts and identify two winners (one graduate or medical student and one postdoctoral fellow) deemed to be outstanding.
- Two winners will each receive a \$500 award and certificate.

Early Career Research Award Competition

This award competition is pending funding. Should funding be confirmed, this award competition will be held.

Purpose:

Challenges early career faculty, scientists and clinicians, in nutrition by providing a juried abstract review and special oral session in which they compete in presenting their research findings.

Additional Requirements:

- Open to early career investigators within 10 years of a doctoral degree working a career in nutrition science or practices (e.g., junior faculty, staff, assistant scientists).
- Postdoctoral fellows, medical interns, residents or fellows, or trainees are not eligible to participate.

Process:

- Applicant indicates desire to be considered for this award in the designated section during abstract submission.
- During abstract submission, a brief statement must be provided that addresses the applicant's role in the research contained in the abstract; how the research has potential implications for policy, public health or future research directions; and a brief summary of the applicant's career objectives in nutrition science or practice.
- Six finalists will be chosen to participate in an award competition at NUTRITION 2026.
- Finalists will provide a 14-minute presentation, consisting of a 10-minute talk followed by 4 minutes of questions and answers.
- All oral presentations will be evaluated using standard criteria and indicators of success. Presenters' work is evaluated at these five levels:
 - Hypothesis / Problem Statement
 - Design, Methods & Controls
 - Results
 - Conclusion, Predicting Impacts, Future Work
 - Presentation & Professional Competence
- Judges for the oral competition include ASN members in various career stages as well as a peer early career professional evaluator.
- Finalists will receive a certificate. Pending external funding, selected winners will receive a modest monetary award.

Emerging Leaders in Nutrition Science Poster Competition

Organized by ASN's Research Interest Sections, Global Nutrition Council and Medical Nutrition Council

Purpose:

Recognizes the highest quality research presented by students, medical trainees, and postdoctoral fellows to ASN's topical areas.

Additional Requirements:

- Open to undergraduate students, graduate students, medical students, medical trainees, and postdoctoral fellows.

Process:

- Each of ASN's Research Interest Sections as well as the Global Nutrition Council and the Medical Nutrition Council identify the highest scoring abstracts submitted by students, medical trainees and postdoctoral fellows.
- Finalists are invited to participate in a poster competition at NUTRITION 2026.
- Finalists will receive a certificate. Pending external funding, selected winners will receive a modest monetary award.

George Bray Obesity Research Student Awards

Endowed by Dr. George A. Bray and Marilyn M. Bray

Purpose:

Recognizes two students for outstanding research related to the causes, treatment or prevention of obesity.

Additional Requirements:

- Open to undergraduate, graduate, and medical students.

Process:

- Applicant indicates desire to be considered for this award in the designated section during abstract submission.
- A review committee will review and rate abstracts and identify two winners deemed to be outstanding.
- Two winners will each receive a modest monetary award and a certificate.

Global Nutrition Early Career Scholar Award
Organized by the Global Nutrition Council

Purpose:

Provide travel funding to a researcher from a low- or middle-income country.

Additional Requirements:

- Member of ASN's Global Nutrition Council
- Junior faculty member within 5 years of receiving a master's or doctoral degree and based at a university or research institution in a low- or middle-income country.

Process:

- Applicant indicates desire to be considered for this award in the designated section during abstract submission.
- During abstract submission, a brief statement must be provided that addresses confirming the applicant's intention to compete and describing their involvement and responsibilities in their study.
- Finalists will be identified based on abstract ratings.
- Pending funding, one awardee will receive a travel grant. (Target grant: \$2,000)

Graduate Student Research Award Competition

Purpose:

Tasks graduate students or medical students to hone their research presentation skills.

Additional Requirements:

- Open to graduate students and medical students who have not received a doctoral research degree prior to the abstract deadline.

Process:

- Applicant indicates desire to be considered for this award in the designated section during abstract submission.
- During abstract submission, a brief statement must be provided that addresses the applicant's role in the research contained in the abstract; how the research has potential implications for policy, public health or future research directions; and a brief summary of the application's applicant's career objectives in nutrition science or practice.
- A review committee will review, and rate abstracts based on the following criteria: study objectives/aim/hypothesis; experimental design/methods; selection of critical data and elimination of nonessential data; organization/clarity of figures and tables; explanation of results; and interpretation of data and quality of conclusions drawn.
- Six finalists will be chosen to participate in an award competition at NUTRITION 2026.
- Finalists will provide a 14-minute presentation, consisting of a 10-minute talk followed by 4 minutes of questions and answers.
- Finalists will receive a certificate. Pending external funding, selected winners will receive a modest monetary award.

Nutrition Translation Award Competition for Early Career Investigators

Organized by the Nutrition Translation RIS

Purpose:

Provides an opportunity for early-career scientists and clinicians to demonstrate how their research can be translated to a defined audience to improve public health and/or health outcomes.

Additional Requirements:

- Open to postdoctoral fellows, medical trainees, and other early career I investigators pursuing a career in nutrition science or practice (e.g., junior faculty, staff, assistant scientists).
- Fellows and other early career professionals must have obtained their doctoral degree within the past 5 years.

Process:

- Applicant indicates desire to be considered for this award in the designated section during abstract submission.
- During abstract submission, a brief statement must be provided statement (no more than 50 words) that presents a clear connection between the preclinical or clinical research and clinical practice, consumer or community applications; describes practical applications for policy, health and/or wellness and long-term potential impact; and explains how findings could be communicated to an audience beyond nutrition scientists.
- Four finalists will be chosen to participate in an award competition at NUTRITION 2026.
- Finalists will provide a 20-minute presentation, consisting of a 15-minute talk followed by 5 minutes of questions and answers.
- Judges will rate each scientist's ability to communicate the following:
 - A brief review (limited to 3 minutes) of the foundational research that was the subject of the abstract submitted.
 - Example(s) of how the research findings could be translated to a particular audience. Communication tools or representations of such tools such as handouts, brochures, podcasts, or videos should be highlighted.
 - Translation messages that are suitable for the target audience, creatively applied, aligned with the study results, and provide practical, evidence-based recommendations.
- Finalists will receive a certificate. Pending external funding, selected winners will receive a modest monetary award.

Postdoctoral Research Award Competition

Organized by the Early Career Nutrition Interest Group

Endowed by IFF

Purpose:

Challenges early career scientists and clinicians in nutrition by providing a juried abstract review and special oral session in which they compete in presenting their research findings.

Additional Requirements:

- Open to postdoctoral fellows, medical trainees and other early career I investigators holding a doctoral degree pursuing a career in nutrition science or practices (e.g., junior faculty, staff, assistant scientists).
- Fellows and other early career professionals must have obtained their doctoral degree within the past 5 years.

Process:

- Applicant indicates desire to be considered for this award in the designated section during abstract submission.
- During abstract submission, a brief statement must be provided that addresses the applicant's role in the research contained in the abstract; how the research has potential implications for policy, public health or future research directions; and a brief summary of the applicant's career objectives in nutrition science or practice.
- Six finalists will be selected to participate in an award competition at NUTRITION 2026.
- Finalists will provide a 14-minute presentation, consisting of a 10-minute talk followed by 4 minutes of questions and answers.
- All oral presentations will be evaluated using standard criteria and indicators of success. Presenters' work is evaluated at these five levels:
 - Hypothesis / Problem Statement
 - Design, Methods & Controls
 - Results
 - Conclusion, Predicting Impacts, Future Work
 - Presentation & Professional Competence
- Judges for the oral competition include ASN members in various career stages as well as a peer early career professional evaluator.
- Finalists will each receive a certificate. Selected winners will receive a modest monetary award.

Robert Suskind and Leslie Lewinter-Suskind Pediatric Nutrition Student Awards
Endowed by Robert Suskind and Leslie Lewinter-Suskind

Purpose:

Recognizes students for outstanding research related to pediatric nutrition.

Additional Requirements:

- Open to undergraduate, graduate, and medical students.

Process:

- Applicant indicates desire to be considered for this award in the designated section during abstract submission.
- A review committee will review and rate abstracts and identify two winners deemed to be outstanding.
- Two winners will each receive a \$500 monetary award and certificate.

Student Interest Group (SIG) Three-Minute Thesis (3MT) Competition
Organized by the Student Interest Group (SIG)

Purpose:

Recognizes students for outstanding abstracts and presentation skills.

Additional Requirements:

- Open to undergraduate, graduate, and medical students.
- One entry per person.

Process:

- Applicant indicates desire to be considered for this award in the designated section during abstract submission.
- Individuals who have submitted an abstract to be presented at an oral session at NUTRITION 2026 are also eligible to compete for this award but must put together a 3-minute oral presentation.
- During abstract submission, a brief statement must be provided that addresses the applicant's role in the research contained in the abstract; how the research has potential implications for policy, public health or future research directions; and a brief summary of the applicant's career objectives in nutrition science or practice.
- Six finalists will be selected to participate in an award competition at NUTRITION 2026. Finalists will be chosen based on abstract quality. Top abstracts will be of high scientific merit and clearly articulate the research objective(s), experimental design and methodology, results, and conclusions (i.e. significance and/or implication of research findings).
- Finalists will provide a 3-minute oral presentation. Oral presentations will be judged on organization and clarity, ability of finalists to communicate the research to the judges in an accurate but succinct manner, and ability of finalists to field questions from the judges.
- Finalists will receive a certificate. Pending external funding, selected winners will receive a modest monetary award.