

Young Investigator Awards Policies and Procedures

(Updated July 2025)

The American College of Cardiology Foundation (hereinafter referred to as “ACC”) is accepting Young Investigator Award (“YIA”) abstract submissions for the American College of Cardiology’s 75th Annual Scientific Sessions & Expo in New Orleans, Louisiana (“ACC.26”) from Monday, July 14, 2025, until Monday, Aug. 25, 2025, at 11:59 p.m. ET.

Please Note: All presentations as part of each of the three YIA Competitions must be in person for ACC.26. If you cannot present in person, your accepted submission will be withdrawn.

Please read the following instructions carefully.

Section 1 details the submission categories.

Section 2 has important information about your submission.

Section 3 contains information for the 15 YIA Competition Finalists (five per category).

SECTION 1: Submission Categories
<p>Basic and Translational Science</p> <p>The primary objectives of submissions to this category should relate to molecular or physiologic mechanisms of disease or treatment. This category includes studies that utilize human tissue or animal models to address mechanisms of disease or mechanisms of action of therapies, as well as basic studies examining fundamental aspects of molecular and cellular regulation. Human studies using molecular physiologic or biochemical approaches that focus on the interface between basic and clinical aspects of cardiovascular disease should also be submitted here.</p> <p>Clinical Investigations</p> <p>The primary objectives of submissions to this category should be applicable to clinical medicine in patients. Studies suitable to this category include a broad range of approaches such as observational cohort studies, biomarker studies, imaging studies or small clinical trials, with study endpoints that may range from clinical outcomes to in-vivo physiologic assessments.</p> <p>Outcomes Research</p> <p>The primary objectives of submissions to this category should address topics relevant to health outcomes, health service research, quality of care, population health or epidemiology. This includes research that results in innovative healthcare delivery, the value of new or repurposed system/clinical practices, cost effectiveness and population genetics/genetic epidemiology.</p> <p>There may not be a "single best category" for your work. Do not be overly concerned if you are unsure; just use your best judgment. The YIA Committee may move the submission to a different category after reviewing if it is better suited to another group.</p>



SECTION 2: Submitting Your Abstract or Case

A: General Information

- All presentations and question and answer periods must be conducted in English.
- Accepted submissions will be published exactly as submitted in the April 2026 online version of the *Journal of the American College of Cardiology (JACC)*. Full text of the abstracts will be viewable in the online/mobile program planner systems beginning Monday, March 16, 2026, at 8 a.m. ET.
- Investigators/Authors do not need to be ACC members to submit or otherwise participate in ACC.26.
- ACC will reimburse YIA Finalists up to \$1,500 for travel, hotel, or per diem expenses.
- Any human experimentation must conform to the principles of the Declaration of Helsinki of the World Medical Association. If any such experimentation is undertaken, the presenting author must be able to provide copies of informed consents signed by human participants.
- The ACC.26 Program Committee endorses the position of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (“AAAS”) in requiring assurances of the responsible use of animals in scientific research. All submissions for consideration must be in compliance with these AAAS guidelines.

B: Submission Policies

- ACC.26 YIA applications with abstracts must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. ET on Monday, Aug. 25, 2025. The ACC is not responsible for the review of abstracts and cases that are not submitted by this deadline.
- Notifications will be emailed on Thursday, Sept. 25, 2025, regarding acceptance disposition to the person who is designed as the “presenting author” for each abstract.
- If your abstract is accepted, your notification will contain presentation information.
- Submissions with “INCOMPLETE” status cannot be processed.
- The submitting author is considered the presenting author.
- Authors should submit their abstract to only one submission type or category. An author must choose the category that best encompasses the submission subject within the activity. Be sure to review all the submission options before selecting and starting the submission process. Abstracts will be checked for submission in all submission types; if duplication is found, only the latest replicate will be forwarded for review.
- The YIA submission system will be open until Monday, Aug. 25, 2025, at 11:59 p.m. ET. Abstracts not accepted as YIA abstracts/finalists may be submitted by the author as regular abstracts during the abstract submission process.
- Authors must follow all instructions for completing the submission. Please see the Submission Instructions for more information.
- Clarity of expression will be considered in the review process. The overall quality of language used should assure comprehension by the reader.
- Authors may use a maximum of five unique abbreviations in the body of the submission. Place abbreviations in parentheses after the full word the first time it appears. Abbreviations increase the difficulty of reading and evaluating abstracts.
- Only commonly used abbreviations should appear in the title of the abstract.



- Proofread abstracts carefully to avoid errors before they are submitted. The ACC is not authorized to make changes to a submission, including typographical errors. If an abstract is selected, it will be published exactly as submitted. Tables and graphics will appear in the exact manner submitted even if the submission quality is poor.
- Authors may return to the online submission system to edit their submission, revise information, correct typographical errors, tables, graphics, or delete a submission at any time before 11:59 p.m. ET on Monday, Aug. 25, 2025. After this time, the system will be closed, and complete submissions will be forwarded for the review process. An author may not revise or resubmit a submission to make changes or corrections after this deadline; instead, the submission may be withdrawn or, if accepted, the error may be indicated during the presentation.
- Adding or removing authors after the submission deadline is not permitted.
- **If an author chooses to withdraw from the YIA Competition after the submission deadline and does not want their abstract to appear in ACC.26 publications, written notification must be sent to awards@acc.org by Monday, Jan. 5, 2026. After this date, withdrawals will be accepted and abstracts will be withdrawn from the program. However, the text, as submitted, will still appear in JACC.**

D: Registration For ACC.26

- Submission constitutes a commitment to present at ACC.26 if accepted. Failure to register for ACC.26 and present will jeopardize future acceptance of abstracts submitted by the author.
- Registration information will be sent to you by ACC staff, including a unique code to receive complimentary registration for the YIA finalist presenter only.

F: Eligibility Policies

Applicant Eligibility Criteria

- Physicians, medical students, scientists and other healthcare providers currently in residency or fellowship programs or no more than three years out of training as of the start of ACC.26 on March 28, 2026.
- PA, PhD, PharmD or DNP candidates who are no more than three years out of training as of the start of ACC.26 on March 28, 2026.
- Note: Candidates will be eligible for this award up to four years after completion of training if more than three months of family or sick leave was taken during training or in the first three years after completion of training.

Submission Eligibility Criteria

Please refer to the following table to determine eligibility for submission to the YIA Competition taking place at ACC.26. These criteria protect the quality, originality, and integrity of the science and case discussions featured during ACC.26.



Eligible	Not Eligible
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Abstracts that have not previously been presented either live or virtually at another professional society meeting or published prior to ACC.26 <i>are eligible</i> for submission. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Abstracts are <i>not eligible</i> for consideration if they have been presented either live or virtually at a national meeting held in the United States or any non-ACC international meeting held prior to ACC.26. *
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If an abstract has been presented (either live or virtually) only at an ACC state chapter meeting or ACC international meeting (ACC Asia, ACC Latin America, ACC Middle East), it <i>is eligible</i> for submission to ACC.26. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Abstracts are <i>not eligible</i> for consideration if they have been presented live or virtually at programs held by non-profit organizations (e.g., ACC live U.S. courses).
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If an abstract has been presented (either live or virtually) only to a state medical society or country society meeting, or local institutional meeting, it <i>is eligible</i> for submission to ACC.26. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Abstracts are <i>not eligible</i> for consideration if the abstract has been published <i>prior</i> to ACC.26.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If an abstract is also planned for submission or presentation at a meeting taking place after ACC.26, it <i>is eligible</i> to be submitted. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If abstracts and the aligned manuscript are submitted to journals for publication and the journals <i>do not agree</i> to hold publication until after the presentation as part of the YIA Competition during ACC.26, the abstract/presentation <i>must be withdrawn</i> from the YIA Competition.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Abstracts may be submitted to journals for publication if the journal agrees to <i>hold publication</i> until immediately following the presentation as part of the YIA Competition. 	

* Examples of this type of meeting include, but are not limited to, scientific sessions by the American Heart Association, Heart Rhythm Society, Heart Failure Society of America, Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions, and European Society of Cardiology.

Requests for exceptions to these eligibility requirements must be made in writing and will be reviewed by the YIA Committee Chair. These situations are expected to be rare given the comprehensive guidance as detailed above.

G: Publication and Copyright Policies

- For abstract submissions, the following applies:** On behalf of all co-authors, the submitting author/investigator agrees that the submission of an abstract constitutes the submitting



author/investigator and all co-authors' agreement to assign and transfer to the ACC all rights, title, and interest, including copyright and all rights subsumed thereunder, in and to the abstract and all material contained therein if the abstract is accepted. Except as otherwise set forth herein, the ACC, as holder of the copyright on the accepted abstract, reserves all rights of reproduction, distribution, performance, display, and the right to create derivative works in both print and digital formats. The assignment of copyright to ACC shall be required for, and the terms set forth in this section shall apply to, any and all abstracts submitted or presented in any format, including but not limited to live, hard copy, or digital formats.

- **For YIA Competition presentations the following applies:** On behalf of all co-authors, the submitting author/investigator agrees that the presentation of an abstract or case at or in connection with ACC.26 constitutes the submitting author/investigator and all co-authors' agreement to assign and transfer to the ACC all rights, title, and interest, including copyright and all rights subsumed thereunder, in and to the abstract presentation and all material contained therein. Except as otherwise set forth herein, the ACC, as holder of the copyright on the abstract presentation, reserves all rights of reproduction, distribution, performance, display, and the right to create derivative works in both print and digital formats. The assignment of copyright to ACC shall be required for, and the terms set forth in this section shall apply to, any and all presentations in any format, including live, digital, or virtual formats.
- ACC hereby grants to the submitting author/investigator and the co-authors a non-exclusive, limited, nontransferable license to use the abstract and presentation and all content contained therein for educational, scientific, and research purposes, provided, however, that such license shall only be effective and such use is only permitted following the conclusion of ACC.26 and after any embargoes in place on ACC.26 content have been removed. Such license does not include the right for the authors/investigators, co-authors, or any sponsors to provide links to, or copies of, the abstract or presentations to third parties or ACC.26 attendees in advance of or during ACC.26. Notwithstanding, the authors/investigators and co-authors are permitted to include a link to the abstract in the their presentation.
- Subject to the prior approval of ACC and the payment of an applicable royalty fee, exhibitors may be granted a license to link to abstracts or presentations from the exhibitor booth during ACC.26.
- On behalf of all co-authors, the submitting author/investigator agrees that any requests for reproduction, distribution, performance, display or the right to create derivative works of an abstract or presentation thereof shall be referred to ACC as the copyright holder.
- Primary responsibility for all data and content contained within an abstract and the presentation rests with the presenter, if the abstract is accepted/published. On behalf of all co-authors, the submitting author/investigator agrees that all data and content contained within an abstract and presentation shall be the original work of the authors/investigators and shall not violate or infringe the intellectual property rights of any third party.
- All YIA submissions in connection with ACC.26 will be disclosed to members of the YIA Committee, as well as to ACC employees and contractors as necessary.
- ACC will undertake all reasonable efforts to maintain the confidentiality of abstracts submitted but cannot guarantee the confidentiality of such materials.



- Titles, presenter, and presentation time of YIA finalists in each category will be posted in the online/mobile searchable ACC.26 program planner systems. Full text of accepted abstracts will be published in the online/mobile ACC.26 program planner systems beginning Monday, March 16, 2026, at 8 a.m. ET and the electronic versions of the *Journal of the American College of Cardiology* on Friday, March 27, 2026, at 8 a.m. ET.
- Abstracts not accepted for presentation at ACC.26 are not published by and will not be disclosed outside of ACC and persons associated with the selection process (e.g., the peer review selection committee). Proprietary rights in any abstracts not selected for presentation at ACC.26, including copyright and all rights subsumed thereunder, shall remain with the submitting author/investigator and co-authors.
- Please read the [Media & Communication Policies](#) carefully as it contains information about Late-Breaking Clinical Trial Presentations. Researchers who believe they have legal obligations to disclose information in advance of presentation should contact the ACC Media Department for guidance. In the event that an author's/presenter's work will be published in a major peer reviewed medical journal concurrent with the timing of ACC.26, it is the responsibility of the YIA finalist to notify the ACC press office of the publication name and date as soon as possible to allow ACC to work with the publication to coordinate embargo of the material.

Section 3: Accepted Abstracts Policies

A: General Information

To the extent any live, virtual, or digital abstract presentation will include the participation of a patient or other individual, the abstract author(s) shall assume full responsibility for such presentation, including but not limited to any and all liability arising therefrom for any reason. It shall be the sole responsibility of the abstract author to obtain all necessary consents from the patient(s) or other individuals included in the submission or presentation, and to confirm to ACC that all necessary consents have been obtained prior to submission of the abstract for review by ACC.

The content in presentations shall be limited to medical, scientific, and research content which relates directly to the abstract submission. Presentations must not include any inappropriate or offensive content or any political or related messages. Presentations that do not conform to this requirement are subject to removal at the sole discretion of ACC.

B: YIA Finalist Presentations

- All oral presentations will be programmed into ten (10)-minute time slots. Acceptance notifications will indicate the time and date of the presentation.
- All presentations and question and answer periods will be conducted in English and be approximately five (5)-minutes per finalist.
- Presenters must upload their presentation in advance and you will be provided specific instructions for doing so, along with a deadline.
- YIA finalists are required to provide a draft manuscript related to their abstract submission. This manuscript will be made available to session judges to prepare questions for you following your



presentation. A deadline for receipt of the manuscript will be shared following your acceptance as a finalist.

- Timed presentations must adhere to the schedule. Presenters and session chairs share equal responsibility for maintaining the schedule of talks, as well as question and answer segments. Please be sure to stay within your allotted time to ensure that all segments may occur.