



## Young Investigator Awards Policies and Procedures

Last updated: June 2026

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 76<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Session & Expo Together with World Congress of Cardiology in Houston, TX, April 10-12, 2027 (“ACC.27-WCC”). Submissions will be accepted from Wednesday, July 1, 2026, until Friday, Aug. 14, 2026, at 1 p.m. ET. All selected finalists must present their research **in-person** at ACC.27-WCC. ACC does not offer virtual or remote presentations capabilities. If you are not able to present your accepted submission in-person, then your submission will be withdrawn from the program.

Please read the instructions carefully.

**Section 1** details the submission categories.

**Section 2** contains important information about your submission.

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

### SECTION 1: Submission Categories

#### Basic and Translational Science

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.

#### Clinical Investigations

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.

#### Outcomes Research

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.

There may not be a single best category for your work; therefore, make your best judgment. The YIA Committee will move the submission to a different category if it is better suited to another group.

### SECTION 2: Submitting Your Abstract

#### A: General Information

- All presentations and question and answer periods must be conducted in English.
- Full text of the abstracts will be viewable in the online/mobile program planner systems beginning Monday, March 29, 2027, at 8:00 a.m. ET.
- Accepted submissions will be published *exactly* as submitted in the April 2027 online version of the JACC.
- Investigators/Authors do not need to be ACC members to submit or participate in ACC.27-WCC.



- ACC will reimburse YIA Finalists up to \$1,500 for direct travel-related expenses (e.g., airfare, overnight accommodations).
- 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 consent documentation signed by human participants.
- The ACC.27-WCC 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.
- We follow JACC guidance regarding the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)
  - “Authors may use any tools, AI or otherwise, that help them write more clearly and effectively. But, they must fully own the words, the ideas, and the responsibility for what they submit. Disclosure that AI was used to assist writing is not necessary, and we expect that every author is deeply involved in every manuscript, stands behind every word, and is fully accountable for the submission.”
  - For more information, see: [Tools, Not Ghosts: Artificial Intelligence, Writing, and Responsibility](#).

## B: Submission Policies

- ACC.27-WCC YIA applications with abstracts must be submitted by 1 p.m. ET on Friday, Aug. 14, 2026. The ACC is not responsible for the review of abstracts that are not submitted or complete by this deadline.
- Acceptance notifications will be emailed on Monday, September 28, 2026, to the person who is designed as the abstract’s “presenting author”.
- Abstracts not accepted as YIA abstracts/finalists may be submitted by the author as regular abstracts during the ACC.27-WCC abstract submission process.
- Submissions with “INCOMPLETE” status cannot be processed.
- The submitting author should be the presenting author.
- Authors should submit their abstract to only one submission category. Review all the submission options before selecting and starting the submission process. If duplication is found, only the latest submission will be forwarded for review.
- Authors must follow all instructions for completing the submission. See the Submission Instructions for more information.
- Clarity of expression will be considered in the review process.
- 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 1 p.m. ET on Friday, Aug. 14, 2026. After this time, the system will be closed, and complete submissions will be forwarded for review. 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.
- **Only the presenting author may withdraw an abstract. If an author chooses to withdraw from the YIA Competition after the submission deadline and does not want their abstract to appear in ACC.27-WCC**



publications, written notification must be sent to [awards@acc.org](mailto:awards@acc.org) by Monday, Jan. 11, 2027. 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.27-WCC**

- Submission constitutes a commitment to present at ACC.27-WCC if accepted. Failure to register for ACC.27-WCC 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.27-WCC on April 10, 2027.
- PA, PhD, PharmD or DNP candidates who are no more than three years out of training as of the start of ACC.27-WCC on April 10, 2027.
- 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.27-WCC. These criteria protect the quality, originality, and integrity of the science featured during ACC.27-WCC.

Eligible	Not Eligible
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Abstracts that have not previously been presented either live or virtually at another professional society meeting or published prior to ACC.27-WCC <i>are eligible</i> for submission.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.27-WCC.*</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.27-WCC.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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).</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.27-WCC.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Abstracts are <i>not eligible</i> for consideration if the abstract has been published <i>prior</i> to ACC.27-WCC.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If an abstract is also planned for submission or presentation at a meeting taking place <i>after</i> ACC.27-WCC, it <i>is eligible</i> to be submitted.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.27-WCC, the abstract/presentation <i>must be withdrawn</i> from the YIA Competition.</li> </ul>



- Abstracts may be submitted to journals for publication if the journal agrees to *hold publication* 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 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.27-WCC 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.27-WCC and after any embargoes in place on ACC.27-WCC 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.27-WCC attendees in advance of or during ACC.27-WCC. Notwithstanding, the authors/investigators and co-authors are permitted to include a link to the abstract in 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.27-WCC.
- 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.27-WCC 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.27-WCC program planner systems. Full text of accepted abstracts will be published in the online/mobile ACC.27-WCC program planner systems beginning Monday, March 29, 2027, at 8 a.m. ET and the electronic versions of the *JACC* on Friday, April 9, 2027, at 8 a.m. ET.
- Abstracts not accepted for presentation at ACC.27-WCC are not published by and will not be disclosed outside of ACC and persons associated with the selection process (e.g., Young Investigator Awards Committee). Proprietary rights in any abstracts not selected for presentation at ACC.27-WCC, including copyright and all rights subsumed thereunder, shall remain with the submitting author/investigator and co-authors.
- Please read the [Media & Communication Policies](#). 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.27-WCC, 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: Finalist Presentations

- All oral presentations will be programmed into 10-minute time slots, with five minutes of questions and answers with the judges immediately following. The presentation date will be provided upon notification of acceptance of the abstract.
- Presenters must upload their presentation in advance of ACC.27-WCC. Finalists will be provided with upload instructions and a deadline.
- YIA finalists are required to provide a draft manuscript aligned 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. Competition judging is not based on the manuscript.