

Purpose

The purpose of the GESA Young Investigator Awards (YIA) is to stimulate interest in research training by rewarding excellence amongst those involved in research training or in the early stages of their independent research activities.

The word “young” has an historic basis rather than a discriminatory one, since the age of the Investigator is irrelevant as opposed to the stage of their research training and experience. However, the term “YIA” will be retained because of the wide recognition and acceptance of this title within the Society.

Definitions

Awards

Awards will be made at WCOG@AGW25 in recognition of the most meritorious research contribution to the scientific program by a Young Investigators in two separate classifications: Basic Science and Clinical Research.

Clinical Research or Basic Science

Clinical research is defined broadly as research predominantly involving human subjects. It may involve clinical or physiological studies of patients or volunteers, studies based on diagnostic or therapeutic procedures, clinical epidemiology, population studies, observational studies, clinical practice, treatment trials or evaluation of medical technology.

There may be a component of laboratory studies, but applications for predominantly laboratory-based work should be directed to the Basic Science Research Category.

Nature of Awards

There will be FOUR (4) awards available:

- GESA YIA: one (1) in Basic Science and one (1) in Clinical Research (open to GESA members only)
- WGO YIA: one (1) in Basic Science and one (1) in Clinical Research (open to all international delegates only)
- Each Award consists of a certificate, trophy, and \$3,000 AUD (inc. GST)
- All eight (8) finalists will receive a certificate

Eligibility for GESA YIA:

GESA YIA: An Investigator will be eligible for the Awards if:

- The Investigator is a current financial GESA member.
- The Investigator is not a previous recipient of this award.



- Not more than three (3) years have elapsed between the completion of the Investigator's higher degree as determined by the letter of acceptance by the Board of Examiners; or Fellowship, as determined by a letter from the appropriate College.

The Investigator:

- has had a major role in the planning and performance of the research work,
- has been responsible for the preparation of the abstract and
- will present the work during WCOG@AGW25.

Only one (1) abstract per applicant may be submitted for this award and the Investigator must nominate the classification as either Basic Science or Clinical Research. (Note: Investigators may be an author on more than one abstract, but only one abstract will be considered for the GESA YIA.)

At the time of **submitting** the abstract, any or all of the included data or results must not have been published (or submitted for publication) in any peer reviewed journal.

The research falls within the guidelines endorsed by the NHMRC or the appropriate international body regarding Human and Animal Experiments.

Eligibility for WGO YIA:

WGO YIA: An Investigator will be eligible for the Awards if:

- The Investigator is an overseas WCOG@AGW25 delegate.
- The Investigator is not a previous recipient of a YIA award.
- Not more than three (3) years have elapsed between the completion of the Investigator's higher degree as determined by the letter of acceptance by the Board of Examiners; or Fellowship, as determined by a letter from the appropriate College.

The Investigator:

- has had a major role in the planning and performance of the research work,
- has been responsible for the preparation of the abstract and
- will present the work during WCOG@AGW25.

Only one (1) abstract per applicant may be submitted for this award and the Investigator must nominate the classification as either Basic Science or Clinical Research. (Note: Investigators may be an author on more than one abstract, but only one abstract will be considered for the WGO YIA.)

At the time of **submitting** the abstract, any or all of the included data or results must not have been published (or submitted for publication) in any peer reviewed journal.

The research falls within the guidelines endorsed by the NHMRC or the appropriate international body regarding Human and Animal Experiments.



Responsibility

The Investigator is responsible for:

- Ensuring that the abstract is submitted through the meeting abstract Portal and payment is received by WCOG@AGW25 the advertised closing date.
- Paying the submission charge of AUD \$40.00 Inc. GST and (optional) payment of the publication charge of AUD\$50.00 inc. GST.
- Payment must be made by credit card, in Australian dollars, at the time of submission via the meeting abstract portal. Nonpayment will exclude abstract from consideration.

For the GESA YIA Only:

- Click [here to apply for membership or discover the benefits of membership](#).
- Ensuring GESA YIA applicant is a current financial GESA member and can provide their GESA membership number when requested to during the submission process.

Indicating in which:

- Classification they wish the abstract to be assessed: Clinical or Basic Science. (The Research Committee reserves the right to move the abstract from one classification to the other if it considers the nominated classification inappropriate.), followed by selecting.
- Category: Hepatology, Routine GI Endoscopy, Advanced Endoscopic Techniques, Gastrointestinal Cancer, IBD, Luminal, Paediatrics, Nursing, Nutrition, Sustainability and Reducing Waste, Education, and Other.

Ensuring the following if considering submitting a **case report**:

- When submitting a case report as an abstract, ensure the message or lesson it promotes is clearly stated in the first paragraph. Consider the following:
- Is this a rare and therefore worthy condition to describe, or a common condition but unusual presentation?
- Does it teach a lesson e.g., increased awareness of a condition, diagnostic strategy or cost effective/sustainable approach?
- Still unsure? Perhaps ask a mentor, senior colleague, or an AGW SPC member if the case study is unique and worthy of presenting.

Nominating only **One abstract** for consideration for the GESA YIA or WGO YIA. If more than one abstract is nominated all abstracts will be deemed ineligible.

Providing information to confirm that the research work falls within the award guidelines and that it complies with NHMRC or applicable international body requirements regarding Human and Animal Experimentation.

Providing details of the supervisor who can confirm aspects of the Investigator's work.



Method of Selection

The following procedure will be observed in selecting the Young Investigators:

- Nominated abstracts from eligible Investigators, will be circulated to members of the Grants and Research Committee.
- Abstracts will be graded according to originality, presentation, scientific method and validity, relevance and general interest.
- Four (4) finalists will be selected from each classification.

If Selected as a GESA/WGO YIA Finalist

Investigator is responsible for completing the author contribution statement by listing percentage contributions made by each abstract author to achieve the outcomes expected from the research. The investigator's supervisor will be asked to confirm the listed percentage author contributions are true and correct.

Presentation to Awards Winner

All YIA finalists must attend the WCOG@AGW25 Gala Dinner event on Sunday 21 September 2025.

All finalists will be handed a certificate at the WCOG@AGW25 Gala Dinner event on Sunday 21 September 2025.

The winner of each classification will be announced at the WCOG@AGW25 Gala event on Sunday 21 September 2025.

Each Winner will receive:

- A certificate
- A trophy
- \$3,000 AUD (incl GST).

YIA Award Winner Obligations

Recipients are required to provide:

- A personalised letter of thanks to the sponsor, e.g. June Halliday;
- Summary of the research project (for which the award was granted) for publication on the GESA/WGO website

People's Choice Awards

Audience at the end of the eight (8) GESA YIA presentations session may vote (via app) for their chosen award.

Criteria: Best research presentation

- **Winners:** 1 x Basic Science and 1 x Clinical Research
- **Prize:** Each winner receives \$3,000 AUD (inc. GST)
- **Awarded:** AT the WCOG@AGW25 Gala Dinner.

