



“STAR – COM MED 2023”

Nationwide Online Research Presentation Competition

An initiative of IAPSM as part of its Golden Jubilee (1973 – 2023) celebrations

STAR – COM MED is an acronym of SEARCH TALENT AND AWARD IN COMMUNITY MEDICINE

Managed by

1. Dr Pradeep Kumar
2. Dr Rashmi Sharma
3. Dr Urvish Joshi
4. Dr Vaidehi Gohil

Background:

The Indian Association of Preventive and Social Medicine (IAPSM) is a registered national body with a membership of 7000 plus health professionals. While many of its members are part of health care delivery system, most of them are medical teachers in 700 plus medical colleges of India, largely engaged in teaching and research. IAPSM is currently observing its golden jubilee year (1973 – 2023) and as per its action plan for the same, this pan India online research presentation competition has been planned. If it gets suitable response and approval from the organization, it can be made a regular annual activity.

As per the constitution of IAPSM (last updated in 2021), one of its objectives is to promote the research in various sub areas of Community Medicine/ Public Health. Traditionally the research presentations are done in states/ national conferences, where many presenters are unable to do so

due to (1) inability to attend physical meetings either due to the timings, need for prior registration and the limited time slots/ space available. IAPSM recognizes the potential of online education and the power it holds in disseminating knowledge across geographical boundaries; therefore, this competition will have wider access as it will be online and also no pre-registration will be required. It may be noted that it is primarily a search of talent hence any work presented or awarded in this competition can be published or presented elsewhere with due acknowledgement.

Context & Justification:

1. Expanding Reach and Convenience: Nation-wide online PowerPoint presentation competition aims to leverage the benefits of virtual platforms. By eliminating the need for physical attendance, researchers from all corners of the country (even from outside the country) can participate without logistical constraints, thereby fostering inclusivity and expanding the reach of the event.

2. Promoting Research Culture: The competition seeks to cultivate a research-oriented mindset among community physicians and public health professionals across various cadres. By providing a platform to present original research.

3. Cost-Effective and Accessible: Hosting an online competition reduces costs for participants, as there will be no registration fee. This accessibility ensures that talented researchers from diverse backgrounds can participate without financial barriers.

4. Encouraging Original Research: With the focus on community medicine and public health, the competition encourages the submission of original research. By showcasing innovative studies, the event contributes to the advancement of medical knowledge and practice in these critical fields.

5. Efficient and Transparent Process: The process involves the submission of abstracts, followed by a screening process. Selected research works will be presented in a stipulated PowerPoint format to an online jury. This approach ensures an efficient and transparent evaluation.

6. Rewarding Excellence: Winners from various themes will be recognized and rewarded, motivating participants to strive for excellence in their research endeavors. The acknowledgment of outstanding contributions will further inspire researchers to excel in their work.

7. International Exposure: The competition aims to attract not only a pan-India audience but also international through its life members. This global participation will facilitate cross-cultural learning and enrich the collective knowledge base.

8. Real-Time Learning Opportunities: Online presentations will be competitive, and any IAPSM member can attend and learn in real-time. This real-time learning experience enhances the potential for knowledge exchange and fosters continuous professional development.

This online nationwide competition organized by IAPSM stands as a pioneering initiative to foster a research-driven culture among community physicians and public health professionals. With its online format, cost-effective approach, and global accessibility, the event opens doors for talented researchers to showcase their original work to a diverse and engaged audience. By embracing digital platforms and promoting research excellence, IAPSM continues to lead the way in advancing the fields of community medicine in India.

Process:

The process will be in two phases:

1. Submission of abstracts
2. Submission of PowerPoint presentation of chosen abstracts.

All eligible researchers will first submit an abstract as per the guidelines (listed below) within the stipulated time limit. Abstracts submitted will be reviewed by a panel of senior members of IAPSM (Professors/ Senior Associate Professors with at least 10 years of teaching experience or equivalent designations) selected in consultation with President and Secretary General. Based on the participation, appropriate numbers of presentations will be shortlisted for online presentations (guidelines listed below). Presentations will be reviewed by a panel of 3 judges again chosen in consultation with President & Secretary General). In each theme, 3 best presentations (one as 1st & two as runners up) will be identified which will be awarded during the upcoming national IAPSM Manipal conference.

Theme/ Subtheme: There are 5 identified themes and researchers have to submit their presentations, fitting in any of the following.

1. RMNCHA +, Demography and Family Planning
2. General Epidemiology and Epidemiology of Communicable and Non-Communicable diseases
3. Public Health, Health Policy, Planning and Implementation, International Health ,
4. Environment, Nutrition, Social and Behavioral Sciences,
5. Miscellaneous (such as health economics, population genetics, disaster management, medical education etc.). Any topic not fitting in any of the above 4 categories, will be included in this category.

Eligibility:

1. Presenter must be the first and corresponding author and also the life member of IAPSM, otherwise there is no bar of age, designation etc.
2. Work presented must be based on an original study.
3. Initial submission must be in a form of abstract (details provided below) and must accompany (1) IEC/IRB approval issued only after 1 Jan 2021 and (2) an undertaking duly signed by presenting author as per the format described below.
 - i. I undersigned _____ from _____ (organization) with Life membership of IAPSM (L - ####) hereby certify that this work titled _____ is original and either in total or in partial has neither been published nor is under consideration for publication in any journal etc. Also, it has not been presented in any conference etc.
 - ii. Study was conducted after due approval from IEC/ IRB issued after 1 Jan 2021 (copy enclosed).
 - iii. All the authors listed have contributed in this work and agree with the order of authorship.
4. Format of abstract:
 - a. Theme:
 - b. Title, names & latest affiliation of all authors (in sequence with name of first author being underlined),
 - c. Place where the study was done
 - d. Headings of abstract include background, aims and objective, methodology, results and conclusion (including recommendations) with 3 -5 keywords.
 - e. It must be times new roman in 12 font size with 1.5-line space with all-inclusive word count of 300.

It may be noted that the abstract shall be submitted in word document while the IEC/ IRB certificate and the undertaking shall be submitted in PDF.

Process of further selection:

1. After wide publicity through mass mailing to all members, posting at IAPSM website, publishing in Indian Journal of Community Medicine and other affiliated journals, sharing in various official or unofficial WhatsApp groups, abstracts will be invited from all life members on the format provided above along with IEC/IRB approval and signed undertaking.

2. All the abstracts submitted within the due date (31/10/2023), will be reviewed by the screening committee, to select the research works for the presentation under different themes. Presenters of selected works will be intimated to prepare a PowerPoint and present before a panel of judges. Winners in all 5 themes will be identified one as first and two as runners up. by Dec 2023.

Guidelines for PowerPoint presentation (for chosen abstracts)

Registration and Submission:

Interested participants will register by submitting the abstract (MS word), signed undertaking (PDF) and IEC/ IRB approval (PDF) at starcomm2023@gmail.com with cc to dr.vaidehi.gohil@gmail.com.

After being shortlisted, participants will submit their PowerPoint presentations ensuring compatibility with common presentation software and proper multimedia embedding.

Technical Setup:

- Before the presentation day, ensure that PowerPoint slides are compatible with the version of MS PowerPoint or any other presentation software that will be used.
- Participants will verify that all multimedia elements are properly embedded and play smoothly during the presentation.
- Participants will carry a backup presentation on a USB drive/Cloud in case of technical issues.

Specific technical guidelines for quality and standardization of presentations:

Number of slides: It shall not exceed 20 (including title & end-slides).

Slide Size and Aspect Ratio: It shall be the standard slide size of 16:9 (widescreen),

Language: English

Fonts and Text: Recommended fonts include Arial, Calibri, or Times New Roman with Font size between 20 to 28 points for content.

Presentation Delivery: Each participant will be given a specific time slot with an allocated time limit of 10 minutes including 2 minutes for Q & A with judges.

Presentations will be open for registered online audiences who will be able to listen and learn through this round.

Content Organization: Presentations must include sections like Introduction, Methodology, Results (& Discussion), Conclusion (& Recommendations) and references.

Title Slide: Includes title of the work, name (s) of all authors (including presenting author) with their designation, latest affiliation. Names of other authors must be in an agreed sequence.

Introduction (1-2 slides): Provide background information and its significance in Public Health. Also, state research objectives to set the context for the study.

Methodology (2-4 slides): Describe study design, study population, data collection tools/ methods, interventions if any, statistical analysis, ethics related issues, etc.

Results & Discussion (6 - 10 slides): Present key findings in a logical sequence with the help of clear and well-labeled graphs, charts, and tables to illustrate the data. Highlight the main trends, patterns, or significant differences discovered during the analysis. Interpret the results and provide insights into their implications. Discuss how your findings relate to the existing body of knowledge. Address any limitations encountered during the study and how they may have influenced the results.

Conclusion/ Recommendation (1-2 slides): Summarize the main points and emphasize the significance of your findings in advancing knowledge. Also, identify the practical applications of the research. Mention any recommendations or future research directions based on your study's outcomes.

Acknowledgment/ Conflict of Interest/ Funding/ References (1 - 2 slide)

Evaluation Criteria:

Presentations will be assessed based on the following criteria:

- Public health relevance,
- Content Quality: Soundness of methodology, data analysis and significance of the findings.
- Clarity and Organization: How well the content is presented, and whether the information flows logically.
- Visual Appeal: Effective use of graphs/ charts/ images to enhance understanding.
- Communication Skills: Ability to communicate research concepts and address questions during Q&A session.

Selection of Award:

1. All the scientists whose works are shortlisted and presented online, will receive a certificate of presentation.
2. All the judges and members of screening committees will receive a certificate and “Thank You” letter.
3. For each theme, 3 best presentations will be selected and will be awarded as below:

	Each Theme	Total numbers	If attend Manipal Conference	If do not attend conference
1 st Award	1	5	2AC train fare (to & fro) from Workplace or actual whichever is less & Registration of Manipal conference subject to submission of documents of travel & registration	Books worth of Rs. 8000/-
2 nd Runners up	2	10	Registration of conference subject to submission of documents of registration	Books worth of Rs 5000/-

Above prizes are under consideration with IAPSM

In addition, all the winners will receive a certificate and a crafted personalized memento during the conference.

Timeline:

We intend to conduct this exercise in a way that it concludes by the time of national conference so the awards can be conferred to the winners during the conference itself.

1. **Aug 2023:** Wide publicity through mass mailing, posting on IAPSM website/ WhatsApp groups,
2. **Sep – Oct 2023:** Receipt of abstracts on email; Last date of receipt of proposals 31 Oct 2023,
3. **Nov 2023:** Shortlisting of proposals by screening committees and informing the participants, to be completed by 30 Nov 2023
4. **Dec 23 – Jan 24:** All presentations and selection of awardee and communication to them
5. **Feb 2024:** Disbursement of awards, certificates etc. to participants, winners, members of screening committee and judges.

For any query or clarification (s), participants may contact **Dr Pradeep Kumar** (email: drpkumar_55@yahoo.com & mobile: 8238414559)