

# Announcing the Commission on Cancer 2025 Cancer Research Paper Competition

The Commission on Cancer (CoC) and American Cancer Society are hosting a paper competition for physicians-in-training to foster the importance of oncologic research in support of its mission. Papers can be submitted under one of the two following categories: CLINICAL RESEARCH or BASIC SCIENCE. First, second and third place winners will be selected from each category.

## CoC Mission

The Commission on Cancer is a consortium of professional organizations dedicated to improving survival and quality of life for cancer patients through standard-setting, prevention, research, education, and the monitoring of comprehensive quality care.

## Requirements

- Only abstracts – not full papers – will be accepted in either the Clinical Research or Basic Science category. The deadline for submission is **July 7, 2025**
- Title should be all CAPS.
- Body of abstract should be limited to 250 words or less and should include the following headlines, in **bold**. Only capitalize the first letter of each heading:
  - **Background**
  - **Methods**
  - **Results**
  - **Conclusion**
- 1 table or 1 figure/image is permitted. Embed under Results section.
- Abstract is limited to one page.
- Do not reference authors or institution within the abstract.
- Case reports will not be accepted

**Abstracts that do not strictly adhere to these criteria will be disqualified**

## Judging Criteria

**Clinical Research:** Originality, scientific merit, clinical relevance to oncology, and the mission of the CoC.

**Basic Science:** Originality, scientific method, technical complexity, and potential to be translated into practice.

## Eligibility

- The competition is open to all Residents and fellows-in-training. Medical students are not eligible.
- The abstract topic must be specific to oncology and related to the mission of the Commission on Cancer.
- To be eligible for presentation at a national level, abstracts submitted may have been previously presented at local or regional meetings. Abstracts cannot be previously published or under consideration for review of publication in a national journal.

## Awards and Presentation of Papers

The national award winners from each category, Clinical Research and Basic Science, will be announced by September 10, 2025.

### First place winners will each receive:

- \$1,000 honorarium (plush travel expenses if travel is required).
- An opportunity to present their research to a national audience at the CoC Plenary Session in October 2025.

### Second and third place winners will each receive:

- \$500 cash award

### All winners:

- Will provide a recording of their research presentations that will be posted to the American College of Surgeons' website.
- Are required to submit their research for publication after the CoC Plenary to the *Journal of the American College of Surgeons* (acceptance is not guaranteed).

## Judges

### Abstracts will be reviewed by the CoC State Chair Paper Competition Advisory Group:

Maria Castaldi, MD, FACS/Committee on Cancer Liaison Chair  
Quan Ly, MD, FACS/Committee on Cancer Liaison Vice-Chair  
Nitin Mishra, MBBS, FACS/Advisory Group Chair

Ravi Chokshi, MD, FACS  
Jessica Cintolo-Gonzalez, MD, FACS  
Danielle DePeralta, MD, FACS  
Michele Gage, MD, FACS  
Alissa Greenbaum, MD, FACS  
Amanda Kong, MD, FACS  
James McCormick, DO, FACS  
Dustin Nowotny, DO  
Daniela Ochoa, MD, FACS  
Richard Royal, MD, FACS  
Maria Russell, MD, FACS  
Dominic Sanford, MD, FACS  
Parth Shah, MD, FACS  
Cornelius Thiels, DO, MBA, FACS  
Vassiliki Liana Tsikitis, MD, FACS  
Richard White Jr., MD FACS

Questions and abstract submissions should be sent to: **Melissa Leeb**, [mleeb@facs.org](mailto:mleeb@facs.org)