



The 2026 PSAD Science Awards for Early- and Mid-Career Researchers

A key aim of the **PsychoSocial Aspects of Diabetes (PSAD) Study Group** is to stimulate researchers and clinicians to conduct high-quality scientific research in the field of diabetes psychology.

The aim of the annual **PSAD Science Award** is to celebrate the peer-reviewed publication of high quality original research about psychosocial aspects of diabetes within the past year. Supporting and celebrating Early- and Mid-Career Researchers (EMCRs) specialising in the psychosocial aspects of diabetes is integral to building and maintaining capacity in this crucial field supporting people living with, or affected by, all types of diabetes.

In 2026, two PSAD Science Awards are available:

- **The 2026 Early-Career Researcher (ECR) PSAD Science Award**
- **The 2026 Mid-Career Researcher (MCR) PSAD Science Award**

Who / what is eligible for the 2026 PSAD Science Awards?

Self-nomination and nomination of another researcher are both welcome. To be eligible, applications should include:

- a) Full name, affiliation(s), country and email address of the person being nominated. If this is a nomination of another person, then the nominator's details are also required. Applications should indicate whether the nominee is aware of the nomination.
- b) Confirmation that the nominee is a PSAD member.
- c) Indication and evidence of career stage, i.e. ECR or MCR, including statement regarding any relevant career disruptions:
 - An ECR is defined as someone who is working towards a higher degree by research (i.e. PhD, Doctorate) or who has held their PhD or Doctorate for no more than 5 years (adjusted for career disruptions¹)
 - An MCR is defined as someone who has held their PhD or doctorate for at least 5 and no more than 12 years (adjusted for career disruptions¹)

¹ Career disruption is defined as a prolonged interruption to an applicant's capacity to conduct research. Examples of such disruption include, but are not limited to: pregnancy, carer responsibilities, major illness/injury, part-time work. To qualify, the disruption should be continuous for 90 calendar days or more. The period of disruption is used to extend the 5-year eligibility timeframe for consideration of track record relative to opportunity.

- d) A PDF copy of the nominated peer-reviewed paper, published in (or in press with) **since 1st September 2024**. The paper should include original empirical or synthesis of research. Both quantitative and qualitative research are eligible. The primary research questions should address the psychological, social or behavioural aspects of diabetes (including people living with, at risk or affected by all types of diabetes, at any or all ages and stages of life). If the original article was not published in the English language, an English translation must be provided. Peer-reviewed papers are not eligible if they are editorials, commentaries, letters to the editor or 'short reports' (e.g. <1,500 words).
- e) Brief explanation (maximum 500 words) outlining the significance of the paper's contribution to the area of psychosocial aspects of diabetes. Applicants should include in their explanation issues such as novelty of findings or insights, rigorous methods, practical applications, alignment with broader initiatives, early evidence of impact. This statement. The statement should be written in plain language so that it is clear and accessible to a wide audience, and suitable for publication on the PSAD website and/or in social media postings.

How will the recipient(s) of the 2026 PSAD Science Awards be determined?

Applications will be judged by a panel, nominated by the Executive Committee of the PSAD Study Group. The panel will consist of one member of the Executive Committee and at least two other acknowledged experts in psychosocial research in diabetes. Panel members will declare no major conflict of interests (i.e. they are not co-authors of any of the nominated articles). In the case that it is not possible to identify panel members with no such conflicts, then a broader panel will be convened to ensure transparency of process and decision making.

Original articles are rated according to their:

- Significance (clinical or for people living with diabetes)
- Scientific quality
- Innovation
- Clarity of presentation.

How will the recipient(s) of the 2026 PSAD Science Awards be announced?

The recipient(s) will be notified (under embargo) within one month of the closing date (unless exceptional circumstances apply). The recipient(s) will be invited to present their research, in person, at the [2026 PSAD Scientific Meeting](#). The official announcement of the Award winners will occur during the 2026 PSAD Scientific Meeting. Both the ECR and MCR recipients will receive:

- 2026 PSAD Science Award Certificate
- Cash prize of €300
- Opportunity to present their award-winning paper at the 2026 PSAD Scientific Meeting (in person or via pre-recorded video if unable to attend in person)
- free registration to attend the 2026 PSAD Scientific Meeting (reimbursement available if the recipient has already registered). NB. Travel costs are not part of the award prize.
- one-year free membership of the PSAD Study Group (i.e. renewal will be free of charge when their current membership period expires).

How to apply

Applications should be submitted by email to the Honorary Secretary (e: info@psadgroup.org) by **11.59pm CET on Sunday 9th November 2025**.

Frequently Asked Questions

- Can I submit more than one paper for the Science Award?
 - Yes – however, you can only receive one research award per calendar year. If you are ranked highly for multiple papers, the Panel will decide which award is most appropriate for applicant.
- Can I nominate a paper this year that was nominated last year but did not win?
 - No – papers are only eligible if they have been published within the past year. Therefore, previous nominations (papers are ineligible).
- Can a researcher win the Science Award in consecutive years?
 - Yes – the key determinant is the quality of the peer-reviewed publication and meeting the eligibility criteria for ECR or MCR status. Therefore, a nominee is eligible to apply and win even if they won the award the prior year.
- Can I request feedback on my application if I do not win?
 - Yes – the PSAD Science Award is judged by a panel based on pre-determined selection criteria. Feedback is available on request.