Guidelines and Terms & Conditions for the Dental Protection Research Competition for Foundation Dentists

The MPS Foundation Research Competition for foundation dentists in the UK aims to promote, recognise, celebrate, and reward excellence in research demonstrated by foundation dentists in patient safety and risk mitigation. Your competition entry can focus on any of the following four domains in relation to patient safety, risk mitigation and dental healthcare professionals' wellbeing

- Professionalism
- Communication
- Leadership & management
- Clinical areas

The following guidelines and Terms and Conditions will help you to understand the Competition and its requirements:

1. Eligibility

a) The Competition is open to dentists in the UK undertaking Dental Foundation Training or Joint Dental Foundation Core Training. Entrants must be undertaking their Foundation Training at the time of entry into the Competition.

b) Entrants must accept the Terms and Conditions for the Competition

2. Entries

a) Entries must be made through The MPS Foundation's official Online Competition Portal. Entries made by any other means e.g., emails will be automatically rejected.

b) Entrants cannot enter multiple submissions in a year.

c) Research Categories: Entrants should choose from one of the three categories into which to submit their entry. These categories are:

1. Quality improvement project which has application to patient safety applied within any of the four domains that is undertaken during the Foundation year.
2. Presentation of a case managed during the Foundation year with at least one of the four domains as the main component which has application to patient safety. This should be preceded by a literature review that informs the management of the case
3. Small-scale practice-based research on patient safety undertaken during the Foundation year that demonstrates your competency/competencies in any of the four domains

d) Criteria

Category 1 Criteria - The following is the criteria for the Quality Improvement Project (QIP):

- There must be a clear framework to carry out the QIP.
- The focus of the QIP (the issue), should be is clearly identified. Its impact should also be quantified.
- The cause of the issue should be identified.
- There should be evaluation of the literature to show the rationale for the solution(s) to the issue identified.
- The entry should show how the identified solution was implemented and how it was verified.
- Show a reflection of how the findings of the research would impact your practice and potentially the practice of others.
- Describe how the (potential) impact could/would be shared or translated to make a difference.

Category 2 Criteria – The following are the criteria for the presentation of a case preceded by a literature review that informs the management of the case:

- Must show critical appraisal and review of the relevant literature.
- Describe the issues/challenges of the case.
- Clearly show how the evidence informed your practice, and their management of the case presented.
- Should have well written and presented outcome(s) of the management of the case.
- Should include Insightful reflections on how you dealt with multiple facets of the case and its management.

Category 3 Criteria – The following are the criteria for the Small-scale Research Project:

- Should have a strong and relevant research question.
- Should have adequate literature review providing background and rationale for the research.
- Have clear and relevant aims and objectives.
- Use appropriate methodology for the research question and design.
- Explain how the data collected was managed and analysed.
- Have clearly presented and explained results.
- Have a good discussion section that shows understanding of the results, literature and implications.
- Have conclusions that are supported by the findings and linked to the aims and objectives.
- Include a reflection on how the findings of the research would impact your practice and potentially the practice of others.

- Describe how findings will be disseminated.

e) The projects may be individual or collaborative efforts involving a team of Foundation dentists/Foundation dental care professionals

f) All the projects must comply with ethical guidelines and regulations, ensuring the protection and wellbeing of research participants

g) Entries must be in English

h) Entries must be submitted no later than the closing date of the Competition, which is 30 July 2027. Any submissions received after this date will not be considered.

i) All entries must include no more than a 3000-word submission (excluding references) describing the research project. The entry must have a title and there should be an easy-to-understand summary that outlines the rationale, how the research project was conducted, significance of the findings and implications.

Appendices may be included and will not count towards the word count. However, all items included as appendices should only be providing extra detailed information [e.g. a copy of a questionnaire used in the project]. Appendices should not be used as a way of circumventing the word count limit as the Judges may not go through any information in the appendices because these will be considered as additional detail, but nonessential information.

j) Entries must adhere to the word limit requirement. Entries that exceed the word limit may be disqualified.

k) Submissions must be the original work of the entrant and must not include any unreferenced copyrighted material plagiarised from another source.

3. Submission Process

a) Submissions must be made via the Competition's official Portal.

b) Submissions must be made according to the Competition guidelines stated on the Competition's official Portal

c) All submissions will be reviewed by a panel of judges according to the Competition criteria outlined in the guidelines document.

d) All materials related to the Competition, including the entries, shall become the property of the Competition, and may be used at the sole discretion of the Competition organisers.

4. Judging

a) Entries will be judged by a panel of judges.

b) Judges will be evaluating entries on their quality of research, relevance of research to patient safety, risk mitigation, and overall presentation of the research.

c) The judges' decision is final, and no negotiation or discussion will be entered into

5. Awards, Prizes and Recognition

a) Winners will be notified of the results via email.

b) Prizes will be awarded for the best competition entries from each Health Education Postgraduate Medical and Dental Education (PGMDE) Region. There will be commended awards. Each regional winner will receive £350 and a certificate. The commended award winners will receive a certificate.

c) The PGMDE regional winners will compete for the overall national winner's prize of £1000 and a certificate

d) Winners and commended entrants will be invited to have their research published by Dental Protection for MPS members and the wider healthcare community

e) For a collaborative entry that wins, the contributors will share the prize money equally.

f) There will be acknowledgement for the Foundation Practices of The PGMDE regional winners.

6. General Terms & Conditions

a) By entering the Competition, entrants agree to be bound by these Terms and Conditions and acknowledge the decisions of the Competition judges and the Competition organisers, which are final in all matters relating to the Competition.

b) Entrants also agree to indemnify and hold harmless the Competition organisers and judges from all liability arising out of the entry's participation in the Competition.

c) The prize won by an entrant is non-exchangeable, non-transferable, and is not redeemable for other prizes.

d) The organisers of the Competition will have the right to disqualify any entries for any reason, and any disqualified entries will not be eligible for any prizes.

e) Entrants agree to comply with all applicable laws and regulations while participating in the Competition and acknowledge that the Competition organisers are not responsible for any taxes, duties, or fees associated with any awards they may receive as part of the Competition.

f) The Competition organisers reserve the right to disqualify any entrant that is deemed to violate these Terms and Conditions or any applicable laws or regulations.

g) The Competition organisers reserve the right to modify or amend the rules and regulations of the Competition at any time.

h) The winners may be required to take part in promotional activity related to the Competition and the winners must agree to participate in such activity on MPS's reasonable request. The winners consent to the use by Dental Protection and MPS and its related companies, after the closing date of the Competition for a period of 12 months, of the voice, image, photograph and name for publicity purposes (in any medium, including still photographs and films, and on the internet, including any websites hosted by MPS and its related companies) and in advertising, marketing or promotional material without additional compensation. In entering the Competition, all entrants agree to the same.

i) Dental Protection and MPS shall not be liable for any failure to comply with its obligations where the failure is caused by something outside its reasonable control. Such circumstances shall include, but not be limited to, weather conditions, fire,

flood, hurricane, strike, industrial dispute, war, hostilities, political unrest, riots, civil commotion, inevitable accidents, supervening legislation, or any other circumstances amounting to force majeure.

j) The MPS Foundation will handle entrants' personal data in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018 and The UK General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

This competition is an excellent opportunity to showcase your research skills, contribute to research in the dental sector, and make a meaningful impact. Please make sure that you adhere to the Competition guidelines and requirements that we have provided. If you have any questions about the Competition, please contact us at info@thempsfoundation.org using "The MPS Foundation Research Competition for Foundation Dentists" as the subject heading. We look forward to your participation.