



Mahmood Merican Best Masters Research Award

This is an annual award for the best original scientific or clinical paper submitted by postgraduate Orthopaedic trainees in Malaysia. This work represents the research that was conducted during training, which is one of the requirements for the conferment of their degree. This award was initiated in 1997 by Dato' Dr Mahmood Merican, whom the award is named after. He is a well-known Orthopaedic Surgeon and a philanthropist who has contributed tremendously to the Malaysian Orthopaedic community. The objective of the award is to encourage a high standard of research and scientific presentation among Orthopaedic trainees so they may become surgeons who can perform great surgery but are themselves thinkers who understand the importance of sound scientific work and its applicability in daily clinical practice.

This award has demonstrated good outcomes and each year the competition gets tougher. We wish all the applicants Good Luck!

The Prize

A cash prize of RM3,000.00 donated by Dato' Dr Mahmood Merican.

Regulations

1. The competition is open to all registered final year trainees in the Malaysian Orthopaedic Post-graduate training programmes in Malaysian universities and trainees who have completed or will complete their training in 2026 are also eligible.
2. The work may take the form of clinical trials, surveys, retrospective studies, laboratory experiments or any other form of original work.
3. In general, the research work must be derived from a thesis/ dissertation completed during the time of training. Published work by a trainee can also be accepted provided they can show evidence that the work was submitted as a requirement for the Masters of Orthopaedic Surgery (or similar programme).
4. Applicants should not have submitted similar work in any other competition, including for this award previously. The research work must not have been presented in whole or in part in any form in other conferences, seminars, or official presentations.
5. The abstract will be evaluated on the following criteria:-
 - » The relevance of the work to Orthopaedic research or practice.
 - » The scientific merit of the research.
 - » Sufficient introduction to justify clear research question.
 - » The appropriateness of the methodologies used.
 - » The interpretation of results and conclusions.
 - » Presentation skills.
 - » Ability to answer questions from the judges.
6. Upon the abstract submission deadline, all abstracts will be reviewed by the Scientific Committee and be scored by a group of selected International Orthopaedic surgeons to shortlist the top 5 finalists. All authors will be notified of the status of their paper.
7. All results are final; however, the scientific committee has the right to make the final decision in special circumstances.
8. The top 5 finalists will be provided with complimentary registration to the 55th MOA ASM 2026.
9. The submitting authors of the top 5 finalist Submissions must present an oral presentation of the paper during the MOA Annual Scientific Meeting. This consists of 8 minutes oral presentation, followed by 4 minutes of Q&A with the panel of judges. The winner will be announced during the closing ceremony and the presenter must be in attendance to accept the award.
10. All applicants may request for the detailed results of the submission after the competition is over, provided it is approved by the Scientific Committee.
11. Non-finalists may be offered a chance to present their work as a free paper oral presentation or poster presentation during the MOA Annual Scientific Meeting.
12. All finalists and non-finalists presenting in MOA Annual Scientific Meeting must register for the conference as a delegate.
13. All finalists will be invited to the MOA President's Dinner. The winner will be announced during the dinner and the winner must be present to accept the award.

Application

Abstract submission can be done online at our website. The deadline for submission of abstract is **2359hrs, 16th March 2026.**

Please refer and adhere strictly to the **ABSTRACT SUBMISSION GUIDELINES** on page 18 for the accepted format of submission. The same submission format applies for those submitting for this award. Abstracts that do not adhere to the guideline will not be entertained.