

2026 CSANZ Ralph Reader Prize

Eligibility Criteria and Award Conditions

Background

The Ralph Reader Prize was originally the Young Investigators Award and was first presented in 1980. It was named after Dr Ralph Reader as a tribute to his encouragement of young investigators during his time as Medical Director of the National Heart Foundation from 1961-70 and as Director and Chief Executive from 1970 until his retirement in 1980. The Ralph Reader Prize remains the most prestigious research award to young investigators by the Cardiac Society of Australia and New Zealand (CSANZ).

Three finalists will be selected in each section, Clinical or Basic and Translational Science, to present their work in the Ralph Reader prize session at the CSANZ Annual Scientific Meeting. The Ralph Reader Prize is awarded to the best individual presentation in each prize session.

1. Eligibility Criteria

- 1.1. Applicants must still be in training and can be advanced trainees, undergraduates, medical students, PhD students or research students including nurses, scientists and allied health professionals up to the level of postdoctoral fellow; in cardiology or cardiac surgery.
- 1.2. **Post-doctoral applicants must be no more than five years-post award of PhD as at the application deadline, relative to opportunity (considered by the CSANZ on a case-by-case basis).**
- 1.3. The applicant must be domiciled in Australia or New Zealand.
- 1.4. The applicant must be a Member of the Cardiac Society of Australia and New Zealand or have submitted an application for membership by the submission deadline.
- 1.5. The work must have been carried out in Australia or New Zealand and the applicant must have made a significant contribution to the concept and execution of the work.
- 1.6. Previous winners in the same category are not eligible to enter. However, prize winners in a different CSANZ Prize, for example, the Allied Health Science and Technology Prize, are not precluded from entering the Ralph Reader Prize.
- 1.7. Prior to the submission deadline, the abstract must NOT have been published or accepted for publication or have been presented at a national meeting or World Congress held in Australia or New Zealand prior to the prize session.

2. Submission Requirements

- 2.1. Applicants for the Ralph Reader Prize must submit a paper of at least 2,000 words up to a maximum of 5,000 words. The applicant must be the first author.
- 2.2. The word count includes references and the submission can have a maximum of five figures/tables.

- 2.3. The submission should focus on the project methodology and results and include robust data.
- 2.4. Submissions for the Ralph Reader Prize are restricted to a **single paper only**.
- 2.5. The application **must** also be accompanied by a detailed letter of support, please use provided template, from the supervisor or Director of the laboratory or service in Australia or New Zealand from which the work has emanated, clearly detailing the following information:
 - the applicant's position (advanced trainee, researcher, post-doc etc)
 - details about the contribution made by the applicant towards the work being presented.
 - identify new work specific to the submission
 - any previous presentations of the work
 - distinguish work previously performed in the supervisor's laboratory or department
- 2.6. Failure to provide the letter from the Supervisor **by the submission deadline**, will result in the paper being withdrawn from consideration for the Ralph Reader Prize.

3. Allocation to Clinical or Basic and Translational Science

- 3.1. Applicants are to nominate their submission to either the Clinical Science Session or the Basic and Translational and Science session. The Scientific Committee will confirm the allocation if selected as a finalist.
- 3.2. Allocation to the Clinical Science section will be restricted to studies in human populations.
- 3.3. Basic and Translational Science studies include disease mechanisms, cardiovascular biology, animal studies, pre-clinical research, mechanistic substudies of clinical trials, personalized medicine, novel drugs and devices, proteomics, genomics and metabolomic studies.

4. Awarding of Prizes

- 4.1. Each finalist will receive a cash prize of AUD\$500.
- 4.2. The winners of the Ralph Reader Clinical and the Ralph Reader Basic and Translational Science prizes will each receive a cash prize of AUD\$2,500.
- 4.3. The Ralph Reader Prizes are awarded by a panel of judges but will only be awarded if a contribution is considered to be of sufficient merit.
- 4.4. The judges' decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into.
- 4.5. The winners of the Ralph Reader Prizes will be announced at the CSANZ AGM and Prize Ceremony.