
DAVID JOHNSON AWARD GUIDELINES

The David Johnson Award for Best PEM Trainee Research is presented annually at the PERC Annual Scientific Meeting. It recognizes a Pediatric Emergency Medicine (PEM) subspecialty trainee for the completion and presentation of important and original research that demonstrates clarity, scientific strength, and clinical relevance to PEM.

This award honours the legacy of Dr. David Johnson, a PERC founding member, dedicated clinician, researcher, and mentor in the field of pediatric emergency medicine.

PROCESS OVERVIEW

This award is open to all PEM Subspecialty Trainees who submit an abstract to the PERC Annual Scientific Meeting. Submissions are automatically considered unless the trainee chooses to opt out during the submission process. Three semi-finalists will be selected to present in the final session of the PERC Trainee Research Day, with the winner announced at the conference.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

To be considered for the David Johnson Award for Best PEM Trainee Research, the following criteria must be met:

1. Only PEM sub-specialty trainee are eligible. The presenter must still be a subspecialty trainee fellow or have been in a staff position for 18 months or less.
2. The trainee must present their study at the PERC Annual Scientific Meeting.
3. Projects must be at a stage where full results of the study can be presented.
4. The project must be relevant to PEM.
5. Projects must be initiated during the 2-3 years of PEM training. Protocol development and ethics approval may occur prior to PEM training, but all data collection must take place during the PEM training period.
6. The PEM trainee must be the principal investigator. If not listed as first author, a letter must be provided explaining the trainee's role and why they are not listed as first author.

ABSTRACT REQUIREMENTS

To be considered, PEM trainee must submit a structured abstract (500-1,000 words, not including title or authors), using the following headings:

- Background: Brief summary of what is known about the topic
- Objective: Purpose, aim, or hypothesis
- Subjects and Methods: Study design, population, sample size, inclusion/exclusion criteria, setting, interventions, duration, measurements, outcomes, analysis plan
- Results: Outcomes such as enrollment, withdrawals, and analysis results
- Conclusions: Primary take-home messages, key findings, future directions

SUBMISSION & DEADLINE

Abstracts must be received by November 15, 2025, which coincides with the PERC Annual Scientific Meeting 'Intention to Present' submission deadline. Trainees are able to submit abstract updates until November 30, 2025 by emailing the updated version to nationalcoordinator@perc-canada.ca.

EVALUATION PROCESS

All submitted abstracts will be reviewed by three independent peer reviewers with expertise in research methodology and pediatric emergency medicine. Reviewers are selected to reflect diverse backgrounds and site representation across the PERC network. Abstracts will be evaluated using the PERC Trainee Abstract Evaluation Rubric.

Based on these scores, three semi-finalists will be selected and invited to present during the final session of PERC Trainee Research Day. Each semi-finalist's supervisor will be asked to submit a letter describing the PEM trainee's role in the project.

Presentations will be assessed by a separate panel of three reviewers, distinct from those who evaluated the abstracts. These reviewers will use the PERC PEM Trainee Research Presentation Evaluation Rubric (attached separately) to guide scoring. The winner will be selected by consensus and announced during the PERC 2026 Annual Scientific Meeting. Abstracts not selected as finalists will be scheduled for presentation during the regular PERC Trainee Research Day programming.

Please direct questions to:

PERC National Coordinator

Email: nationalcoordinator@perc-canada.ca