



Best Publications Awards General Information Sheet

1. Aim

The South African Society for Basic and Clinical Pharmacology (SASBCP) holds a competition for the Best Publications Award each year, to be awarded during its annual congress meetings. The aim is to foster and promote research in pharmacology amongst established researchers, as stated in the Society Objectives in our Constitution.

2. Prizes

The following prizes are awarded:

Category	Medal**	Prize* money
Basic Pharmacological Sciences	Yes	R2,000
Clinical Pharmacological Sciences	Yes	R2,000

* Prize money is strictly subject to the availability of sponsorship.

** Importantly, none of the awards are conferred automatically to a participant in each category, but applies only when there are two or more participants per category and if the winning article is of quality regarded by the judging panel as worthy of the award.

3. Who is eligible?

The competition for the Best Publications Award is open to persons who meet the following criteria:

- Paid-up SASBCP membership at the time of submission.
- Primary contributor to the article.

4. Procedure

Manuscripts must be submitted in **PDF format via e-mail** to the congress organisers, with the deadline date the same as the deadline date for abstract submission set for that year.

- Indicate the name of the submitting author(s), including permission from all other authors.
- Indicate the SASBCP membership number of the submitting author(s).
- Clearly state whether the article is entered for the "Basic" or "Clinical" category.
- Clearly state the contribution of the submitting author(s) to the article if there is more than one author.
- Clearly indicate the contact details of the submitting author(s) (i.e. e-mail, telephone & postal address).

Hard copies of articles will be accepted **only** if a PDF format is not available, in which case four printed copies should be sent to the organisers via postal mail. In these rare cases, the manuscripts must be sent in due time to ensure that they reach the organisers no later than the deadline date.

The Scientific Committee of Congress Organising Committee appoints three competent and unbiased national reviewers (not participating in the competition) to select a short list of three (3) best publications in each category from all submitted articles. The articles from the shortlists are then sent to the judging

panel (consisting of international guest scientists and local researchers) for final selection of the winner in each category. The winners are announced at the Congress dinner at the annual congress.

5. Rules

General rules

The following general rules apply:

- All participants must comply with the eligibility criteria and procedures explained in § 3&4 above.
- In all cases it remains the responsibility of the submitting scientist to confirm receipt of the article for the purpose of the competition by the organisers.
- All submissions shall be subject to approval by the Executive Committee of the SASBCP.
- The decision by the judging panel is **final** and not negotiable.

Article Specifications

Eligible articles must comply with the following specifications:

- full length manuscript;
- original research;
- published in an accredited journal;
- published during the **preceding year** (*according to the official publication date, e.g. a 2010 paper for the 2011 competition*).

A review article or other contribution will be considered in exceptional cases, only when it represents and extraordinary contribution, usually in a high impact journal.

Theme & Ethics

The following must be complied with the following criteria:

- The theme of the article must pertain to pharmacology (basic or clinical, as per indicated category).
- The research must comply with appropriate ethical norms and legislation.

Scientific

The article must:

- clearly identify, define and address relevant questions;
- report on a study that applies appropriate, elegant experimental design and techniques;
- report and interpret data in a scientifically sound manner;
- provide novel answers;

Local Capacity Building

Whenever the quality of two or more eligible articles is comparable, articles reporting on research performed locally and/or by South African scientists will take preference over articles reporting on research performed abroad and/or by foreign scientist members.