

**2025 BPA Best Research Paper Award**

**GUIDELINES**

Biological Psychiatry Australia (BPA) aims to promote excellence in research performed in the field of biological psychiatry within Australia. Research promoted by BPA is cross-disciplinary and cross-species, consisting of Psychiatry, Molecular Biology, Pharmacology, Psychology, Behavioural Neuroscience, Physiology, Genetics, and Epidemiology. The BPA Executive Committee invites nominations for the 2025 BPA Best Research Paper Award.

The awards are offered in two categories:

1. Student
2. ECR (0-5 years post PhD)
3. General

The winners in each category will receive a certificate and a $250 gift card to be awarded at the Annual BPA conference, held this year in Melbourne, VIC, 26-28 October. In addition, the winners will be required to present their research paper at a BPA Webinar (date to be negotiated).

**ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

To be eligible to apply for the award, the applicant must:

* Be either:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| ***Category*** | ***Eligibility*** |
| Student | **- BPA member currently enrolled in a Bachelor, Honours, Masters or PhD program** at an Australian university or research institution **OR** - **BPA member ECR** with paper accepted for publication in 2024 during PhD candidature |
| ECR | **BPA member within 5 years of PhD completion at time of submission** |
| General | Any BPA member |

* Be first/shared first author of the paper.
* Applicants **MUST** be current BPA members at the time of application.

The paper submitted for consideration must;

* have been **accepted for publication** **in** **2024**.
* be a peer-reviewed journal article featuring **original research,** including **experimental papers, systematic literature reviews** and **meta-analyses**. Abstracts, editorials, commentaries, general review articles, book chapters, guidelines or preprints (e.g. biorxiv, arxiv) will **not** be considered).
* Papers will be judged exclusively on the following criteria:
	+ scientific contribution and impact
	+ contribution of the applicant.

**APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS**

Applicants must forward the following in **a single PDF file**, with subject title “2025 BPA Best Research Paper Award – YourLastName – YourCategory” to biolpsychaust@gmail.com by **5:00pm AEST,** **Monday June 30th, 2025**.

- Application Form (in the following pages), including

* A brief statement (<300 words) outlining the scientific contribution of your paper (including the quality/originality of the research) and the impact of the published research
* A brief statement (<100 words) outlining the author’s contribution to the publication

- A PDF copy of the paper.

- For students: a proof of enrolment from your institution at time of paper acceptance

- For ECRs: a proof of PhD completion

**MARKING BREAKDOWN (20 marks)**

* Scientific contribution (*10 marks*)
	+ Quality (*5 marks*)
	+ Originality (*5 marks*)
* Scientific impact (*3 marks*)
* Author contribution (*7 marks*)

**TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

* Applicants may only submit **one** application.
* Only eligible and complete applications from individuals who satisfy the eligibility criteria stated above will be considered.
* Late applications will not be considered (due date: 5:00pm AEST June 30th, 2025).
* Awards may be split equally between two applicants at the discretion of the judges.
* Successful applicants will be announced in August and prizes will be awarded at the 15th BPA Annual meeting 26-28 October 2024 being held **face-to-face** in Melbourne, VIC.
* The decision of the BPA Executive Committee is final, and no discussion will be entered in relation to their decision.
* By submitting an application, you agree to be bound by these terms and conditions.

**BPA EQUITY & DIVERSITY STATEMENT**

* Biological Psychiatry Australia (BPA) has a mission to promote research and innovation in the field of biological psychiatry within Australia.
* Diversity drives quality and innovation, and so BPA strives to develop a strong culture of diversity and inclusivity. We aim for all voices to be heard, regardless of gender, race, disability, age, socioeconomics, sexuality, religion, or any other attribute.
* We recognise our responsibility to our membership to promote equity of opportunity across all our activities, including developing meeting programs, and bestowing prizes and awards. We will not tolerate actions or language that discriminates against any person or persons based on gender, race, disability, age, socioeconomics, sexuality, religion, or any other attribute, at any event held by or sponsored by BPA.
* Through fostering a culture of inclusivity, we aim to promote diversity and provide a forum where researchers of all levels and all backgrounds can freely share ideas and inspiration.

I am applying for:

[ ]  Student

[ ]  ECR

[ ]  General

**APPLICANT DETAILS**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| First name |  |
| Last name |  |
| Email |  |
| Phone number |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Institution |  |
| Position |  |

**Biography and paper summary (no more than 200 words; only used for the announcement of successful applicants)**

**Statements outlining the scientific merit and impact of your publication**

**1. Scientific contribution and impact**

Please describe in less than 300 words:

- the scientific contribution of your submission: elements to be judged include (but are not limited to) the overall quality and originality of the paper, originality of the tools used to answer the question, prestige of the journal in the field, etc.

- the impact of your submission: elements to be judged include (but are not limited to) the impact or relevance to the field, any supporting endorsements such as being the subject of editorial comment, featured on the journal cover, number of downloads, Altmetrics, media etc.

**2. Author contribution**

In no more than 100 words, detail the specific contributions of the applicant to the publication (e.g., applicants role in data collection, analysis, etc).