ANNUAL RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM 2026

POSTGRADUATE INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE

UNIVERSITY OF COLOMBO

"Training tomorrow's specialist: Re-thinking learning, assessment and accreditation in the era of AI"

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

The Editorial Committee of the Annual Research Symposium of the Postgraduate Institute of Medicine (PGIM) of the University of Colombo invites abstracts from Researchers, Postgraduate Trainees, Clinicians, Academics and Health Care Professionals, to be considered for presentation and publication at the Annual Research Symposium (ARS) of the PGIM to be held on the 6th of November 2026.

Deadline for Abstract Submission: 20th of August

For submissions, please use the following link:

https://forms.gle/sCtr7nUV7FA145U56

For inquiries: e-mail: ars@pgim.cmb.ac.lk, Telephone: + (94) 112689266

(Guidelines for preparation of abstracts are attached)

Author Guidelines

The main theme of the symposium is "*Training tomorrow's specialist: re-thinking learning, assessment and accreditation in the era of AI*".

However, the symposium will accept abstracts related to, but not limited to the following academic areas:

- Clinical Sciences
- Laboratory Sciences
- Basic Sciences
- Multi-Disciplinary Sciences including Health Informatics
- Medical Education

All accepted abstracts will be published in a Special Supplement of the Journal of the Postgraduate Institute of Medicine (JPGIM). Authors of accepted abstracts will also be invited to submit full papers to the JPGIM.

Please note that case reports or case series are not accepted at this symposium. Primary research, systematic reviews and meta-analysis are accepted.

Abstract guidelines:

- ✓ The abstract must report original research not previously published elsewhere.
- ✓ **Title:** The title should be brief and reflect the study reported. Capital letters should be used only for the first letter in the first word of the title and proper nouns.
- ✓ An author may submit a maximum of one abstract as a single author and up to three abstracts as a co-author. No author shall submit more than four abstracts in total,
- ✓ Priority will be given to the authors who are affiliated to the PGIM, University of Colombo (as a trainee, trainer or an examiner) and should be mentioned as one of the affiliations,
- ✓ **The authors' names and addresses:**

a) Capital letters should be used only for the initials and the first letters of the surnames of authors,

b) The address of the Institution where the work was carried out should be included under the author's name,

c) If the collaborators are from different Institutions, the addresses of the institutions should be included in brief,

- ✓ **Keywords:** A maximum of five,
- ✓ **Format:** Abstract shall be structured as Introduction, Objective, Methods, Results, Conclusion
- ✓ Length: Maximum 300 words, excluding the title, author affiliations, acknowledgements, and key words.
- ✓ Standard abbreviations of SI units should be used,
- ✓ Acknowledgements should be restricted to the names of funding agencies providing sponsorship,
- ✓ The abstract should be coherent and free of language errors,
- ✓ A letter signed by all co-authors, including the last name of all authors with initials and their affiliations and signatures should be uploaded along with the abstract.
- ✓ All submissions must adhere to the University of Colombo policies and guidelines on Academic Integrity, Similarity Assessment, and the Responsible Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI). Authors are advised to refer to Page 4 for further details.

For Submissions: Please use the online form available at the PGIM website: https://forms.gle/sCtr7nUV7FA145U56

Deadline: 20th of August 2026

Kindly note that the abstracts that are not prepared according to the guidelines provided or are submitted after the deadline will not be considered for review.
The Editorial Committee reserves the right to suggest alterations to the text of the abstract in order to improve its quality.

Editorial Committee
PGIM ARS 2026

Academic Integrity, Similarity Assessment, and Responsible Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)

*** All submitted abstracts and extended abstracts must adhere to the highest standards of academic integrity. Plagiarism, including self-plagiarism, is strictly prohibited. Authors are expected to submit original work and ensure that all sources are appropriately acknowledged.**

*** All submitted documents will be screened using Drillbit Similarity Detection and AI Detection tools before review and publication decisions.**

*** The use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools in the preparation of manuscripts is permitted only in accordance with the University of Colombo's "Policy on the Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence in Academic and Administrative Activities" (Annex I). Authors remain fully responsible for the accuracy, originality, integrity, and ethical compliance of all submitted content, irrespective of whether AI tools have been utilised.**

*** The acceptable similarity threshold for abstracts is 5%, while the acceptable similarity threshold for extended abstracts is 15 %.**

*** Similarity reports will be evaluated after excluding: Reference lists; In-text citations (citation elements only, not the associated text); and Matched text segments consisting of eight (8) words or fewer.**

*** All identified similarities must be appropriately attributed and cited. Whether similarities arise from direct quotations, paraphrased content, adopted ideas, or previously published scholarly work, proper citation and acknowledgement are mandatory. Commonly used technical terms, standard methodological descriptions, and widely accepted academic expressions may not require citation where appropriate.**

*** Submissions exceeding the prescribed similarity thresholds, containing uncited material, or violating the University's academic integrity requirements may be rejected without further notification.**