BRITISH SOCIETY FOR DERMATOLOGICAL SURGERY EST 1983

MEDICAL STUDENT PRIZE

Terms and Conditions, January 2027

THE THEME

"How can dermatological surgery and Mohs surgery be made more visible and engaging for medical students?"

Many medical students complete their dermatology placement without realising that dermatologists perform surgery. The BSDS invites medical students to find out why, and what would help. Using evidence you gather yourselves, produce a poster that:

- explores what medical students currently know about, and experience of, dermatological and Mohs surgery;
- identifies what is missing or could be improved, for example during dermatology placements;
- proposes practical, evidence-based ideas that the BSDS, dermatology departments or Dermatology Societies could adopt (for example pre-placement resources, theatre or Mohs sessions, hands-on skills teaching or Derm Soc events).

Evidence may include surveys of fellow students, focus groups, and conversations with consultants, registrars, specialist nurses and Mohs teams. Where relevant, tell us what has already been tried locally and how well it worked.

CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

Eligibility and entries

1. The BSDS Medical Student Prize is open to any individual who has medical student status at the time of application. International students are welcome to apply but must provide proof of student status.
2. We welcome individual or group entries. Groups of up to five people are suggested as a guide, for example members of a Dermatology Society. Larger groups will be considered, provided every member's role is clearly defined.
3. All group entries must list every member and describe each person's role on the application form. Entries that do not show each member's contribution will not be considered.
4. A medical school or Dermatology Society may submit more than one entry, but each person may be named on one entry only.

Format

5. Posters must be on the theme set by the BSDS Executive Committee and be the applicants' own work.
6. Submissions must be a **single-page poster** saved as either an **MS Word** or **MS PowerPoint** file only.
7. Posters should be concise and readable at a glance. Please keep text to no more than 500 words, excluding references and the AI statement.
8. Publication references must be given and will be checked.
9. The Poster should not contain applicants name or medical school. Submissions are anonymised when viewed by the judges to avoid education institution bias.

Use of AI

1. AI tools may be used for research and to help produce concise text and effective diagrams and figures, but submissions generated largely or entirely by AI tools will be rejected. **AI plagiarism is a significant probity issue, and you will be reported to your medical school if this is detected.**
2. The use or non-use of AI must be declared in a short statement at the foot of the poster, stating what it was or was not used for (e.g. research, text, survey design, data analysis, diagrams, layout, design). This will not count against you as long as it is declared and the work is substantially yours. Submissions without an AI statement will be rejected.

Gathering evidence, data and images

3. This prize is not a research study and formal ethical approval is not expected. However, anyone taking part in a survey, interview or focus group must do so voluntarily and be told how their responses will be used. Responses must be anonymised, and no patient-identifiable information may be collected or included. If in doubt, check with your medical school before collecting data.
4. Patient images are not needed for this theme and are discouraged. If any patient image is included, it must be fully anonymised, with fully informed written consent for publication obtained and recorded in the patient records. The BSDS may ask for confirmation of consent, and entries unable to provide it will be rejected.
5. The truthfulness of the submission, including any data presented, must be confirmed by the lead applicant on behalf of all group members.

How to apply

6. To apply, email your poster and completed application form to: **info@bsds.org.uk**
7. The deadline for applications is **31 January 2027 at 11.59pm** (UK time). Late entries will not be accepted.

Prize and judging

8. The prize will be: A bank transfer of **£300**. For group entries, the prize is awarded to the group lead submitter to be shared between the named members following a suggested fair monetary division discussion. An electronic certificate will also be awarded for portfolio progression.
9. Entries will be judged by a panel appointed by the BSDS. The judges' decision is final.
10. Winners may be invited to give a presentation at one of the BSDS meetings, and winning posters may be published on the BSDS website and in the BSDS newsletter.
11. By entering, applicants agree that the BSDS may use the findings and ideas in their poster to help develop its engagement with medical students, with credit given to the authors.
12. Applicants' student status will be confirmed with the medical school before the prize is awarded.

MARKING CRITERIA

Your entry will be judged on the following criteria:

Criterion	Marks
Evidence and insight Quality of the evidence gathered from students and clinical teams, and how well it is analysed and presented	**15**
Practical value of recommendations How realistic, actionable and useful the proposals would be for BSDS, departments and Dermatology Societies	**10**
Originality Fresh ideas or approaches not already widely in use	**10**
Relevance to dermatological surgery Clear focus on dermatological surgery and Mohs surgery within dermatology	**10**
Style and structure Clarity, layout and ease of reading at a glance	**5**
Total	**50**