Guidelines and Terms & Conditions for the MWF/MPS Foundation Research Competition for Doctors

The Medical Women Federation (MWF) & The MPS Foundation Research Competition for Doctors aims to promote, recognise, celebrate, and reward excellence in research demonstrated by women doctors in patient safety, the wellbeing of medical professionals and risk mitigation.

Competition Focus

Competition submissions should align with one or more of the following themes:

- Patient safety
- Wellbeing of healthcare workers
- Risk reduction, by addressing human factors or through the use of technology
- Education and training innovation to achieve risk reduction

The following guidelines and Terms and Conditions will help you to understand the Competition and its requirements.

1. Eligibility

a) The Competition is open to all female resident doctors, locally employed doctors, SAS doctors or equivalents registered with a medical regulatory body (in the UK, this is the GMC). Whilst membership of MWF is not a requirement, we hope entrants will feel encouraged to join. The competition is free to enter.

b) Research or QIP projects submitted to this competition must not have previously received funding through an MPS Foundation award or won any other MPS Foundation supported competitions) Entrants must accept the Terms and Conditions for the Competition

2. Entries Categories

a) Entries must be made through The MPS Foundation's official Online Competition Portal. Entries made by any other means e.g., emails will be automatically rejected.

b) Project Categories:
Entries should fall into one of the following three categories:

- Quality improvement project
- Academic research
- Practice-based research

In all cases the work should have been completed within a year of the competition submission, and should have application for patient safety, risk mitigation or healthcare professionals' wellbeing.

c) Criteria

All entries must include no more than a 3000-word submission (excluding references) describing the QIP/research project.

For a Quality Improvement Project (QIP) please include:

- Title
- An easy-to-understand summary of no more than 300 words outlining the rationale, how the project was carried out, how it was evaluated and the implications for practice.
- A clear framework for carrying out the QIP.
- Clearly identify the focus of the QIP issue (challenge).
- Identify the cause(s) of the challenge.
- An evaluation of the literature to show the rationale for the solution(s) to the challenge identified.
- How the identified solution was implemented.
- Evaluation and quantification of the impact of the change.
- A reflection of how the QIP has impacted your practice and potentially the practice of others, and how the improvement identified was or could be shared further. If your project has relevance to women's health or wellbeing, please draw that out in your entry.

For Academic or Practice-based Research please include:

- Title
- An easy-to-understand summary or abstract of no more than 300 words outlining the rationale, methodology, results, significance of the findings and implications.
- Confirmation of ethical approval by the appropriate body, and subject consent if relevant.
- A strong and relevant research question.
- An adequate literature review providing background and rationale for the research.
- Clear and relevant aims and objectives.
- Appropriate methodology for the research question and design.
- How data collection was managed and analysed.

- Clearly presented and explained results.
- Discussion that shows understanding of the results, literature and implications.
- Conclusions that are supported by the findings and linked to the aims and objectives.
- A reflection on how the findings of the research would impact your practice and potentially the practice of others.
- How findings will be disseminated.
- If your project has relevance to women's health or wellbeing, please draw that out in your entry.

e) We recognise the importance of teams in such projects; however, the QIP or research project must have been led and/or primarily carried out by an eligible entrant (see 1a)

f) All the projects must comply with research ethical guidelines and regulations, ensuring the protection and wellbeing of research participants

g) Entries must be in English

h) Entries must be submitted no later than the closing date of the Competition, which is 19th March 2027. Any submissions received after this date will not be considered.

i) Appendices may be included and will not count towards the word count. However, all items included as appendices should only provide additional detailed information [e.g. a copy of a questionnaire used in the project]. The Judges may not consider the appendices, which will be considered as additional but nonessential information.

j) Entries must adhere to the word count. Content beyond the word count will not be considered and entries that exceed the word limit may be disqualified.

k) Submissions must be the original work of the entrant and must not include any unreferenced copyrighted material plagiarised from another source.

3. Submission Process

a) Submissions must be made via the Competition's official Portal.

b) Submissions must be made according to the Competition guidelines stated on the Competition's official Portal

c) Entrants, including winners, will retain the right to publish their work subsequently in peer-reviewed journals.

4. Judging

a) Entries will be judged by a panel of judges comprised of MWF Officers and representatives from MPS.

b) Judges will evaluate entries on their quality, relevance to patient safety, risk mitigation, or healthcare professionals' wellbeing, and overall presentation.

c) The judges' decision is final, and no negotiation or discussion will be entered into

5. Awards, Prizes and Recognition

a) Winners will be notified of the results via email.

b) Prizes will be awarded for the best competition entries as follows:

- Winner: £1000 and a certificate
- Runners-up £500 a certificate
- and commended prize and certificates will be issued at the judges' discretion.

c) The winner, runner up and commended entrants will be invited by the MPS Foundation to publish articles in Casebook based on their competition entries for MPS members and the wider healthcare community.

d) The winner will be offered an opportunity to present her work at an MWF event (Annual Conference or another event).

6. General Terms & Conditions

a) By entering the Competition, entrants agree to be bound by these Terms and Conditions and acknowledge the decisions of the Competition judges and the Competition organisers, which are final in all matters relating to the Competition.

b) Entrants also agree to indemnify and hold harmless the Competition organisers and judges from all liability arising out of the entry's participation in the Competition.

c) The prize won by an entrant is non-exchangeable, non-transferable, and is not redeemable for other prizes.

d) The organisers of the Competition will have the right to disqualify any entries for any reason, and any disqualified entries will not be eligible for any prizes.

e) Entrants agree to comply with all applicable laws and regulations while participating in the Competition and acknowledge that the Competition organisers are not responsible for any taxes, duties, or fees associated with any awards they may receive as part of the Competition.

f) The Competition organisers reserve the right to disqualify any entrant that is deemed to violate these Terms and Conditions or any applicable laws or regulations.

g) The Competition organisers reserve the right to modify or amend the rules and regulations of the Competition at any time.

h) The winners may be required to take part in promotional activity related to the Competition and the winners must agree to participate in such activity on MPS's reasonable request. The winners consent to the use by MWF or MPS and its related companies, after the closing date of the Competition for a period of 12 months, of the voice, image, photograph and name for publicity purposes (in any medium, including still photographs and films, and on the internet, including any websites hosted by MWF or MPS and its related companies) and in advertising, marketing or promotional material without additional compensation. In entering the Competition, all entrants agree to the same.

i) MWF and MPS shall not be liable for any failure to comply with their obligations where the failure is caused by something outside their reasonable control. Such circumstances shall include, but not be limited to, weather conditions, fire, flood,

hurricane, strike, industrial dispute, war, hostilities, political unrest, riots, civil commotion, inevitable accidents, supervening legislation, or any other circumstances amounting to force majeure.

j) The MPS Foundation will handle entrants' personal data in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018 and The UK General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

This competition is an excellent opportunity to showcase your research skills, contribute to research in the healthcare sector, and make a meaningful impact. Please make sure that you adhere to the Competition guidelines and requirements that we have provided. If you have any questions about the Competition, please contact us at info@thempsfoundation.org using "The MWF/MPS Foundation Research Competition for Doctors" as the subject heading. We look forward to your participation.