



2026 Research Paper Competition

The deadline is **January 23, 2026** to apply to submit a Paper for consideration for the 2026 Research Paper Competition. The First place winner will have the opportunity to present their paper at the **AAMA 2026 Symposium** at the Hyatt Regency Denver Tech Center in Denver, CO, April 23-26, 2026. Please follow all instructions carefully to allow your application to be considered fully.

This is a call for entries for the annual Acupuncture Research Paper Award. 1st, 2nd, and 3rd-place awards will be presented at the AAMA Symposium. The deadline for submission of research papers for the competition is **January 23, 2026**. If your paper is selected as one of the winners, you will be notified by **February 13, 2026**.

We are pleased to offer:

- **First Place:** \$750 stipend, Symposium Registration. Paper to be presented at the 2026 AAMA Symposium.
- **Second Place:** \$500 stipend, Symposium Registration.
- **Third Place:** \$350 stipend, Symposium Registration.

The First Place winning paper is to be presented in a **30-minute Plenary Session** at the Symposium. Papers for second and third place to be announced at the Symposium. Authors will be acknowledged there.

RULES

Submissions must be original work, in either clinical research or basic biochemical or physiological research pertaining to acupuncture. The work must not have been previously published. Work completed and accepted for publication during the 2025-26 year period will be considered, if the publishing journal will allow presentation at AAMA Symposium.

Papers should include the name and degree of the principle author and any coworkers, the institution or affiliation (if any), mailing address and telephone/fax numbers. E-mail addresses are desirable but not mandatory. Acknowledgement of submission receipt will be sent to the address used for submission.

Submissions should be received by **January 23, 2026**. Beyond that date, due to judging time and notification needs prior to the spring Symposium, papers cannot be guaranteed acceptance for this year.

Submissions will be judged and rated on originality, suitability for publication, research design, and clinical or basic science relevance.

If human subjects are involved in the research, proper informed consent must have been obtained and approval of appropriate institutional review committees obtained, where applicable.

All submissions must be in English. All proprietary rights to the research work are reserved to the author(s), including future right to publish any and all aspects of the research.

Acknowledgement of receipt of the submission will be sent within 10 working days. A panel of judges will be assigned and will be made up of members of the Medical Acupuncture Research Foundation (MARF) Board of Trustees. Winners will be selected at the sole discretion of the judges and the Board. Winners will be notified in adequate time to attend the Symposium.

Faculty Disclosure – For the First Place winner and presenter at the Symposium, disclosure forms are required to be completed because the AAMA must ensure that anyone who is in a position to control the content of the education activity has disclosed all financial relationships that you have had in the past 24 months (even if now ended) with ineligible companies. We define ineligible companies as those whose primary business is producing, marketing, selling, re-selling, or distributing healthcare products used by or on patients.

Accredited education must be free of marketing or sales of products or services. Faculty must not actively promote or sell products or services that serve their professional or financial interests during accredited education.

Submission - The paper should be submitted via email, though the AAMA assumes no liability or responsibility for papers not received. E-mail submissions should be sent to the AAMA Office (info@medicalacupuncture.org) with the e-mail subject line "AAMA Research Paper Award Contest," in order to be properly received and considered for the Research Paper Awards.

Submissions must be sent to info@medicalacupuncture.org email address and received by the January 23, 2026 deadline date.

The Research Paper Competition is supported by funds from the Medical Acupuncture Research Foundation (MARF). The Foundation is a 501(c)3 organization with a mission to inspire and support evidence-based medical acupuncture research.