

## **Dr. Shanta Rao Best Paper Award ICMR-NIRRCH Foundation Day Award**

### **Purpose**

The **Dr. Shanta Rao Best Paper Award** and the **ICMR-NIRRCH Foundation Day Award** is instituted to encourage **Ph.D. students of ICMR-NIRRCH** to publish quality research papers from their Ph.D. work addressing issues related to Institute's mandate. The award will include a certificate and medal.

### **Eligibility**

All original research papers published as a first author or joint first author from their Ph.D. work **before the award of their PhD degree** and submitted for consideration of the award (deadline- 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2025). **Those students who have received the award previously will not be considered.** The award would be given on the Institute's Foundation Day.

The application must contain

1. Original Research Article published as the first author or joint first author **as a PDF and a word file**
2. A write-up (250 words) by the student indicating how the paper has contributed to the field and how this discovery has changed the perception of the research in their field of work. A plagiarism report with a value of less than 10% should be attached.
3. The duly forwarded award application should be emailed by his/her Ph.D. Supervisor to [dir@nirrch.res.in](mailto:dir@nirrch.res.in) & cc to [award@nirrch.res.in](mailto:award@nirrch.res.in).

### **Selection Criteria**

#### **Minimal eligibility criteria**

1. The theme of the paper should be related to reproductive health/biology or child health
2. The paper should have been published in a PubMed indexed Journal
3. Papers published and online during 1<sup>st</sup> Jan – 31<sup>st</sup> Dec in the previous year of the award

#### **Selection criteria for shortlisting**

- Originality
- Write-up from the student
- Two-year journal impact factor
- Quantum of work
- Data Interpretation

**Evaluation Table:**

No.	Paper Title	Authors	Journal name and year of publication	Write up by the candidate Score: 2	2- year Impact Factor of the Journal# Score:5	Originality of work* Score: 8	Quantum of work Score: 5	Data Interpretation Score: 5	Total score Score : 25

**I. Originality attributes\***

**Maximum**

**score**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. New Knowledge Generated   | 8 |
| 2. Developing a new product/research tool/technique  | 8 |
| 3. Challenging/reinterpreting an existing hypothesis/theory  | 7 |
| 4. Extending or elaborating on an existing piece of work   | 6 |
| 5. Applying existing ideas to new areas of study/<br>Taking a particular technique and applying it in a new area/<br>Improving an existing product/ research tool/ technique | 5 |
| 6. Reproducing existing knowledge in different settings  | 4 |

**II. Journal Impact Factor#**

Impact factor	Score
0- 0.99	0.5
1- 1.99	1
2- 2.99	2
3- 4.99	3
5- 7	4
>7	5

## **Best Paper Award Selection Process**

### **Best Paper Award Selection Process**

The award selection process is comprised of two stages: The screening stage and the final selection stage.

#### **The Screening Stage (Institutional Level)**

- The screening committee will comprise 4 internal members. The member who is a part of any of the submitted papers (co-authors and corresponding author/s) will not take part in screening for that lot.
- Each member will screen the submitted papers (forwarded by the award secretariat) for eligibility. In case of any disagreement or query, the decision of the Director, ICMR-NIRRCH would be final.

#### **The Final Selection Stage (External Experts)**

- This stage shall commence right after the screening stage
- Selection Committee will comprise 3 external members (not part of any of the submitted papers in any manner and with no active associations/collaborations with any of the authors in the past two years).
- A signed conflict-of-interest document needs to be submitted by each of the members.
- Each member will independently mark every paper. The marks would be pooled for each paper and a rank list would be prepared.
- The paper with the highest score will be conferred the **Dr. Shanta Rao Best Paper Award**, while the paper with the second-highest score will receive the **ICMR-NIRRCH Foundation Day Award**.
- Under normal circumstances, there shall be no more than one winner per year per award.
- In case there is a tie in the top two papers the award may be given to both the students. No more than two winners per year are allowed under any circumstances.
- If the award selection committee thinks that no nominated paper meets the award benchmark, the committee may recommend that no award will be given that year. This is a measure to gradually elevate the prestige of the Best Paper Awards with a high benchmark that all the teams are encouraged to pursue and achieve. If such a decision is reached, the award selection committee may select 1-3 top-ranked papers and give them Special Mention Award(s) for the sake of encouragement.

**Award secretariat:**

Dr. Srabani Mukherjee (Chairperson)

Dr. Shaini Joseph (Member Secretary)

Dr. Dipty Singh (Member)

Dr. Vikrant Bhor (Member)