



### **Dr CR Soman Award for the best Medical Postgraduate Thesis**

Health Action by People offers Dr CR Soman Award, for the best Medical Postgraduate thesis from the medical colleges in Kerala, since 2010. This yearly award is named after the late Professor (Dr) CR Soman, eminent medical teacher, researcher, orator, public health activist, and the founder chairperson of HAP. We believe this award has encouraged the original research work of postgraduate students, and over the decade, it has become a prestigious award within the medical fraternity.

#### **The Award**

The award comprises a cash prize of Rs. 25,000/- and a certificate. The winners will be honoured in a befitting academic ceremony.

#### **Eligibility**

1. This award is for the **best Medical Postgraduate thesis from the medical colleges in Kerala**. This is meant for any postgraduate medical student in a medical college in the Modern Medicine stream submitting a thesis to a University in Kerala for an MD / MS degree in the last year.
2. June 30<sup>th</sup> of each year will be the cutoff date for eligibility; those who submit the thesis between July 1st, 2023, and June 30th, 2024, will be eligible to apply for the award.
3. The head of the department must endorse the entry.

#### **The Process**

1. A screening committee composed of medical teachers, including clinicians with a good publishing record and acquaintance with research methods, will shortlist up to four studies. We shall invite the shortlisted candidates to present their work before an academic audience in Trivandrum.
2. A jury of eminent medical researchers will select the best thesis, and we shall provide certificates of appreciation for the others.

## Criteria for assessment

1. The originality and relevance of the research question.
2. Significance of the study (contribution to existing medical knowledge or its policy implications)
3. The soundness of the methods used like the clinical evaluation and the data collection tools used (appropriateness of design, the conceptual framework (if relevant), validity issues - design specific precautions including handling confounders and bias)
4. Quality of writing, photographs, and other illustrations used. (E.g., presenting conclusions, handling the limitations, clarifying points for discussion, and the overall flow and rigour of presentation).

## How does one apply for the award?

An extended structured abstract, fewer than 1000 words, with the following subheadings, should be **send online** to [info@hapkerala.org](mailto:info@hapkerala.org) on or before **November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024**.

- I. Title
- II. *Introduction, background and objectives (150-250 words)*
- III. *Methods (200-400 words);*
- IV. *Results (200-400 words)*
- V. *Discussion & Conclusion (150-200 words).*

The abstract may include up to two appendices (one table and one chart (or both tables or charts) and should mention statistical details such as '*p*' values for significance. The abstract will be used for initial screening and to decide upon the reviewers.

Plagiarism check using professional software is among the first screening methods. A soft copy of the entire work, including charts, figures, and references, as **a single PDF file**, should also be sent to [info@hapkerala.org](mailto:info@hapkerala.org), along with a scanned copy of the duly signed application form, in the format given at the end of this document. The subject of the e-mail should be "**Application for Dr CR Soman Award 2024**". The application should be endorsed by the head of the department/head of the institution.

We adhere to research and publication ethics, and your research materials will be handled with due care. The thesis will be shared only for evaluation purposes with accomplished researchers with high research ethics under a written confidentiality agreement.

Send a ***print copy of the application*** to "The Secretary, Health Action by People, TC 1/1706, Navarangam Lane, Medical College P.O., Thiruvananthapuram – 695011". Also, send a scanned copy of the signed application form and the dissertation to [info@hapkerala.org](mailto:info@hapkerala.org). The subject of the e-mail should be "**Application for Dr CR Soman Award 2024**".

1	<b>Name of the Applicant</b>	
2	<b>Communication Address</b>  <b>e-mail address :</b> <b>Home telephone:</b> <b>Mobile Number:</b>	
3.	<b>Postgraduate course completed</b>	
4	<b>department</b>	
5	<b>Institution</b>	
6	<b>University</b>	
7	<b>Title of thesis/ clinical work</b>	
8	<b>Date of submission of the thesis to University</b>  <b>Signature of the Head of the Department</b>	
9	<b>Outline the significance of the study (In less than 100 words)</b>	

*The last date for receipt of the application will be November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024.*