

GACD Knowledge Sharing Competition 2026 – guidance for entrants

How to enter

1. **Read this guidance document.**
2. **Choose your stream.**
Stream 1 Creative Communication or Stream 2 Science Showcase.
3. **Tell us your plan to enter.**
 Complete the quick [Intention to Participate Form](#).
4. **Formally confirm your entry details.**
 - [Download this Word form](#).
 - Fill in all the necessary details.
 - Email to admin@gacd.org by Friday 16 October 2026, 08:00 UTC.
5. **Questions?** Contact [GACD’s Senior Research Capacity Manager](#).

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1. Overview

Knowledge sharing turns individual learning into collective impact. It helps teams solve problems faster, spread effective approaches, and build stronger collaborations.

Knowledge sharing can take many forms, for example:

- Interactive activities (e.g., working groups, mentoring)
- Digital posts (e.g., social media, blogs)
- Traditional dissemination (e.g., academic articles, conference presentations)
- Creative communication (e.g., storytelling with patients)
- Visual formats (e.g., infographics, videos, animations)

The best format depends on the knowledge you are sharing, the forum or opportunity to share it, and the people you want to reach.



“When people share their knowledge, they create a collective pool of expertise that can be used to solve problems, innovate, and achieve goals. This can be incredibly exciting, as it can lead to new discoveries, breakthroughs, and transformations.”

Margaret Bee, GACD’s Senior Impact & Policy Manager

The **GACD Knowledge Sharing Competition** is an opportunity to showcase your project or working group, or an aspect of it. All entries will be on display during the Annual Scientific Meeting for the GACD community to browse, discuss, and feedback.

2. Eligibility

Anyone from the GACD community who has registered to attend the Annual Scientific Meeting can enter. Early-career researchers are especially encouraged to participate.

If you would like to enter the Knowledge Sharing Competition, you must:

- **Be a member of the GACD Research Network.**

Note: A group of people is welcome to work on an entry together, but the majority of the team must be members of the Research Network.

Members of the Research Network include anyone working on a GACD-funded project (past or present), alumni of GACD Implementation Science Schools and Masterclasses, and representatives from GACD Associate Members (funding agencies).

- **Be registered to attend the Annual Scientific Meeting 2026.**

Note: Where a group of people is submitting an entry together, at least one member of the creator team must be registered to attend the Annual Scientific Meeting 2026.

- **Be the primary creator of the entry, including conceptualisation, development, drafting, and finalising.**

Note: You must fully acknowledge everyone who contributed to the development of your entry.

*Please read **Section 3** carefully regarding use and acknowledgement of AI and LLM tools.*

- **Have permission from your project’s Principal Investigator(s) OR your working group’s co-chairs to enter the Knowledge Sharing Competition.**

- **Permit the use of images of your entry in GACD’s various social media, digital and web platforms, consistent with the scope of GACD.**

3. Use of AI and Large Language Models (LLMs)

AI and LLM tools are a fast-evolving technology. We endeavour to keep up with the major developments but, of course, it is out of the GACD secretariat’s scope to have a comprehensive understanding of AI, LLMs, and machine learning.

Below we have outlined six important points regarding AI and LLM tool use by entrants to the Knowledge Sharing Competition. The aim is to preserve the unique shared learning experience between humans.

3.1. In the context of the GACD Knowledge Sharing Competition, AI and LLM tools are considered to be programs that can generate, summarise, translate, and parse text in multiple contexts.

Examples include ChatGPT, Microsoft CoPilot, and Google Gemini.

AI and LLMs are the basis for most chat bots.

There is more information in [this blog from Stanford University](#).

3.2. In this competition, AI and LLMs may be used as support tools.

For example, you may wish to check grammatical accuracy if you are less confident using English.

However, use of such tools must not undermine the primary creator being a human.

There is a big difference between prompts such as, “Please check for any spelling, punctuation, and grammar errors in this sentence” versus “Please write an introduction for an academic poster on XYZ”.

3.3. No LLM tool will be accepted as a credited author on an entry.

Any attribution of authorship carries accountability for the work, and AI tools cannot take such responsibility.

3.4. LLM tool use should be reported in your final submission.

Your declaration will be included on the printed sign describing your entry at the Annual Scientific Meeting.

See the annex for the list of questions you will need to answer.

3.3 and 3.4 are in line with [Nature Medicine recommendations](#).

3.5. Do not rely on new technologies to create an entry for you.

There is no guarantee of data privacy for any information you upload.

AI and LLM tools can get facts wrong (called ‘hallucinations’) – for example, making up references that do not exist.

AI and LLM tools are also susceptible to inheriting and amplifying biases present in their training data. This means such biases can be present in their outputs.

3.6. There are substantial environmental impacts associated with AI and LLM use.

Please think carefully before using these tools in your work.

There is more information [in this blog from the UNEP](#).

4. Entry streams and content

GACD welcomes competition entries to either stream on any topic related to a GACD project or a GACD working group. Content should be aligned with GACD’s core remit of non-communicable diseases, implementation science, and low- and middle-income countries or underserved populations in high-income countries.

We have two streams of entries: **Stream 1 Creative Communication** and **Stream 2 Science Showcase**.

You must choose whether to align your entry with Stream 1 **OR** Stream 2 (not both). If you are unsure about your idea (whether it fits within the criteria or will be feasible with locally available resources), feel free to get in touch with [GACD’s Senior Research Capacity Manager](#).

Stream 1: Creative Communication	Stream 2: Science Showcase
<p>Content</p> <p>This stream is all about creative ways you have communicated messages, ideas, and complex science in your GACD project*, tailoring the communication format and content to a specific audience.</p> <p>This stream is your opportunity to showcase how you have communicated effectively with one or more stakeholder groups.</p> <p>You can use existing materials already developed as part of your project or create something new for this competition.</p>	<p>Content</p> <p>This stream is about showcasing the technical research aspects of your GACD project* – methods, tools, application of frameworks, designing implementation strategies, analysing results, interpreting outcomes, and everything in between.</p> <p>Entries may focus on the project as a whole or a specific aspect – e.g., your stakeholder engagement plan or how you assessed the local context.</p>
<p>Target audience of entry</p> <p>Your entry must target a specific stakeholder group (or groups) that is relevant to your project or working group – from patients to practitioners to policymakers and anyone in between.</p>	<p>Target audience of entry</p> <p>Implementation researchers, funding agency staff, and other delegates at the Annual Scientific Meeting.</p>
<p>Format of entry</p> <p>Entries might be information leaflets for patients, policy briefs for decision makers, board games to engage a youth advisory board, infographics to educate communities, or any other innovative communications you have developed.</p> <p>You may wish to showcase the communication material on its own, or you can accompany it with a short, written explanation.</p> <p><i>If your entry is a film, you may wish to consider participating in the GACD Film Festival instead.</i></p>	<p>Format of entry</p> <p>A traditional academic poster, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Background or introduction. • Methods. • Results. • Discussion or interpretation. • Relevant tables and/or figures. <p>This is a general content guide and Stream 2 entries can deviate from this depending on the nature of their poster’s content.</p>

*If you are an alumnus/alumna of a GACD Implementation Science School or Masterclass and are not affiliated with a GACD-funded project, you are welcome to create a competition entry that draws on your work of another project. However, the project must fit within the scope of GACD and this event: implementation research, NCDs, and LMICs and/or underserved populations in HICs.

5. Multiple entries

People from the same GACD project team or working group can submit separate or joint entries – please ensure you discuss your plans for entering the competition with your teammates.

A lead creator or author can submit one entry per stream.

6. Intention to participate



To let us know of your intention to participate in the Knowledge Sharing Competition, [please complete this form](#) at your soonest convenience.

At this stage we only need basic information to help us plan logistics (including poster boards and space at the venue).

You can formally submit your entry later, once you have the details (see Section 6).

Submitting an intention to participate does **not** commit you to entering. If you can no longer take part, please let us know as soon as possible.

7. Formally confirm your entry



To formally confirm your entry to either stream, please:

- Download [this form](#).
- Complete it.
- Email it to admin@gacd.org.

You do **NOT** have to send a copy of your entry.

Deadline for emailing us with your completed form is Friday 16 October 2026, at 08:00 UTC.

Please stick to this deadline as it allows the GACD staff team time to organise logistics (including poster boards), the browsing session, and voting.

If you can, please also confirm with [GACD's Senior Research Capacity Manager](#), whether you are definitely participating as early as possible.

8. At the Annual Scientific Meeting

All entries will be on display during the Annual Scientific Meeting. Delegates are encouraged to:

- Browse the entries during breaks.
- Ask questions and share feedback with entrants.
- Vote for the Community Choice Award by the end of Day 1.

Day 1 includes a dedicated open forum.

Entrants should stand by their entry so they can:

- Give their three-minute presentation when the judging panel arrives at their entry.
- Answer questions from the judging panel.
- Interact with other delegates interested in their work.

7.1 Setting up

- Please set up your entry either before the start of the Annual Scientific Meeting sessions or during one of the breaks on Day 1.
- Your entry's spot will be clearly labelled with your name, the title of your entry and (if Stream 1) your target audience.
- For wall posters, GACD will supply adhesives.
- For other entry formats in Stream 1, GACD will set up the relevant space (e.g., a small table) as agreed with entrants in advance via email.

Please ensure your entry is set up by lunchtime on Day 1.



Knowledge Sharing Competition entrants are responsible for bringing their knowledge sharing output to the Annual Scientific Meeting.

GACD is not able to cover associated costs, such as printing.

7.2 On the day

Stream 1: Creative Communication	Stream 2: Science Showcase
<p>Time is allocated in the afternoon of Day 1 for delegates and the judging panel to browse entries.</p> <p>During this time, you are kindly requested to stand by your entry.</p> <p>The judging panel will move between entries in a set order that will be announced a week before the event.</p> <p>When the judging panel comes to your entry, please be prepared to give a short introduction to your entry (up to three minutes) covering your chosen format and how you tailored scientific communications to your target audience.</p>	<p>Time is allocated in the afternoon of Day 1 for delegates and the judging panel to browse entries.</p> <p>During this time, you are kindly requested to stand by your entry.</p> <p>The judging panel will move between entries in a set order, that will be announced a week before the event.</p> <p>When the judging panel comes to your entry, please be prepared to give a three-minute presentation on your poster's scientific content.</p>

9. Competition prizes

All entries to the competition will be celebrated by the GACD community, organisers, and governance boards. The competition is about building an environment where research, innovation, and skill development are valued and supported. As such, all competition entrants will be awarded with a certificate to mark their hard work and engagement. In addition, the entries, with named creators, will be proudly uploaded to the GACD website.

As an extra incentive for creativity and engagement – and to encourage discussion and interaction during the Annual Scientific Meeting – prizes will be awarded. Prize winners will be announced by GACD’s Chief Executive, Morven Roberts, at the end of the Annual Scientific Meeting and will be awarded with a trophy.

8.1 Community Choice Award

The Community Choice Award will be voted for by the delegates of the Annual Scientific Meeting. **There will be one winning entry that spans across both streams.**

During the breaks, delegates will be asked to explore all entries and submit two votes that *span across both streams*. No strict criteria are in place, but delegates may wish to inform their votes using the criteria noted in the next section. The votes will be counted at the end of Day 2 and the entry with the highest number of votes will be the winner.

Once the winner of the Community Choice Award is known, they will be precluded from winning a Judges Choice Award. This is to maximise spreading the joy and celebrating different types of achievement.

8.2 Judges Choice Awards

The judging panels will browse the competition entries in a set order during the dedicated time on the afternoon of Day 1. The order will be announced the week before the event.

The judging panels will deliberate between themselves and decide on their winners by the end of Day 2.

Stream 1: Creative Communication	Stream 2: Science Showcase
Award Judges Choice Award – Creative Communication	Award Judges Choice Award – Science Showcase
Judging panel Margaret Bee – GACD Senior Impact & Policy Manager <i>Other judges to be announced</i>	Judging panel Jane Strom – GACD Programme Manager Ming Yang – Nature Medicine <i>Other judge to be announced</i>
Judging criteria Selection of output format. Tailoring of the scientific message to suit the target audience(s). Communication of complete ideas or concepts in ways that facilitate understanding. Creativity and originality. Scientific accuracy.	Judging criteria Overall appearance (the poster is legible and not cluttered with text; visuals are effective). Components organised in a logical flow. Clarity of written content, tables, and figures. Scientific accuracy. Quality of poster presentation.

10. Technical requirements

Due to the available resources at the venue, your entry must:

Stream 1: Creative Communication	Stream 2: Science Showcase
<p>Be able to be put up on a wall or laid out on a table (i.e., is <i>not</i> a digital animation, video, etc).</p> <p>If you would like to include a digital element via a QR code, or similar, that is permitted; however, your entry should be accessible to your intended audience.</p> <p>If your entry is a film, you may wish to consider participating in the GACD Film Festival instead.</p> <p>Fit onto a poster board space of 1000mm (width) x 2000mm (height) OR a table space of 1830mm (width) x 760mm (depth).</p> <p>If your entry is likely to be larger than these dimensions, please get in touch and we will do our best to accommodate but cannot guarantee we have the space. The earlier you get in touch the more time we have to help with logistics!</p>	<p>Fit onto a poster board space of 1000mm (width) x 2000mm (height).</p> <p>Typically, this is up to A0 in portrait: 841mm (width) x 1189mm (height).</p>

Annex: Entry confirmation form

Available to [download in Word format here](#).

GACD Knowledge Sharing Competition 2026

Formal confirmation of entry

To formally confirm your entry to either stream, please complete this form and email it to admin@gacd.org.

You do **NOT** have to send a copy of your entry.

Deadline for emailing us with your completed form is Friday 16 October 2026, at 08:00 UTC.

Please stick to this deadline as it allows the GACD staff team time to organise logistics (including poster boards), the browsing session, and voting.

1. Your name, as the representative at the Annual Scientific Meeting.				
2. Your GACD project ID and title OR your GACD working group title.				
3. What is the full title of your entry?				
4. Please provide the (human) acknowledgements.				
5. AI and LLM tool use for your entry.	A. Did you use any AI or LLM tools?	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		No	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	B. Which tool(s) did you use?			
	C. What did you use the tools for?	To generate written content		<input type="checkbox"/>
		To edit written content		<input type="checkbox"/>
		To generate visual content (e.g., images, figures)		<input type="checkbox"/>
To edit visual content (e.g., images, figures)			<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Other (please specify below)		<input type="checkbox"/>	
6. Which stream would you like to enter?		Stream 1 Creative Communication	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		Stream 2 Science Showcase	<input type="checkbox"/>	

For **Stream 1** entries only

7. What is the format of your entry? (e.g.) Wall poster, book, a painting, etc.	
8. Does your entry have any special requirements? (e.g.) Wall space, poster board, table space, etc. We will do our best to accommodate but please note that we may not be able to meet all requests.	
9. Who is your target audience?	