

GASOC Innovation in Women's Health Essay competition

We are delighted to announce the GASOC Innovation in Women's Health Essay Competition, aimed at encouraging medical students and early-career clinicians worldwide to engage critically with innovation in obstetrics and gynaecology.

The competition provides a platform for applicants to reflect on innovation through the lens of equity, access, and global health, drawing on their training, experiences, and engagement with literature to explore how technological advances can best serve women worldwide.

Essay topic

Innovation or Inequality: Who benefits from new O&G technologies?

Reflect on practical strategies, ethical considerations, and ways to contribute to lasting impact in innovation in obstetrics and gynaecology worldwide.

Eligibility

The competition is open to medical students, foundation doctors, trainees, and early-career professionals with an interest in obstetrics and gynaecology and global women's health. Applicants from all countries and training backgrounds are welcome.

Guidance for Applicants

Submissions should demonstrate original, reflective, and critical thinking. Applicants should draw on their own experiences, observations, training, and/or critical engagement with relevant literature to support their arguments. This may include, but is not limited to:

- Clinical, educational, research, or placement experiences in any setting
- Observations arising from teaching, electives, conferences, or advocacy activities
- Reflections on training curricula, health systems, or patient encounters

Applicants are not required to have direct experience in technological innovation to submit a competitive essay. High-quality submissions will demonstrate personalised engagement with the topic, coherent and well-reasoned argumentation, and the ability to connect theoretical discussion with real-world and individual contexts. Essays should be written in the applicant's own voice and demonstrate personal insight and critical reflection.

Word count: 750 words ($\pm 10\%$), excluding references.

Use of AI Tools and Originality

This competition assesses original thought and reflective engagement. Limited use of AI tools for purposes such as proofreading or language refinement is permitted. However, substantial reliance on AI-generated content is not acceptable.

Essays that demonstrate heavy dependence on generative AI, such as generic arguments, limited critical reflection, or a lack of specific, applicant-specific, contextual examples, will be penalised and may be excluded from judging.

By submitting an entry, applicants confirm that the work is their own, written in their own words, and that any AI tools were used only in a limited, supportive capacity.

Submission Process

- Essays must be submitted electronically to the email: gasocobgyn@gmail.com
- Submissions should be uploaded as a **single PDF document**.
- Font type: Times New Roman
- Font size: 12-point
- The file name should follow the format:
Surname_FirstName_GASOC_EssayCompetition
- The essay document should include:
 - The essay title
 - The word count (excluding references)
 - References

To ensure fair and unbiased judging, applicant names and identifying information should not appear within the main body of the essay.

Deadline

All submissions must be received by the **15th February 2026 23.59 GMT**. Late submissions will not be accepted.

Judging and Results

Essays will be assessed by a panel appointed by GASOC. Judging will be based on originality, relevance to individual context, depth of reflection, clarity of argument, ethical awareness, and relevance to global obstetrics and gynaecology.

The judges' decision is final. Winners will be notified by email and may be invited to present or publish their work through GASOC platforms.

Prize

The winner of the GASOC Innovation in Women's Health Essay Competition will receive a £100 cash prize.

Academic Integrity

Plagiarism, including unacknowledged use of published or AI-generated material, will result in disqualification. GASOC reserves the right to verify originality and request further clarification from applicants if required.