



The WCSM Silver Medal Call for Applications

Background

Since receiving its Royal Charter in 1629, the Worshipful Company of Spectacle Makers has maintained one clear purpose: **better vision for all**. Through its history, the Company has supported those working in research, education and technological innovation to treat and prevent visual impairment and reduce the incidence of blindness.

The WCSM Silver Medal is intended to recognise people in the middle of their careers whose work over a period of 7–25 years post-doctorate has already made a significant and sustained impact to alleviating visual impairment. The impact can be claimed in any of the following categories: **education, research, innovation, or leadership in clinical practice**.

The Silver Medal is accompanied by a framed citation and will be awarded at one of the Company's large-scale events, as part of a programme designed to achieve the highest levels of public recognition.

Application is via submission of an online form. Candidates should apply themselves in the prescribed format. A candidate may be nominated by a colleague or referee, but the person making the application must complete the application with the full knowledge of the applicant and must provide the evidence required.

The deadline for submissions is Wednesday 28 October 2026 at 17.00. It is expected that, if awarded, the WCSM Silver Medal would be presented at the Company's Court Lunch in the City of London on Wednesday 10 March 2027, or on another similar occasion.

A. Eligibility

- A.1 Applications are eligible from all those working in the fields of vision science, eye health or eye disease care.
- A.2 This Medal is designed to recognise mid-career achievement. A typical applicant is likely to have developed their career over a period of 7–25 years after receiving a doctorate or appointment to a senior level post and will be fully engaged in continuing work in the field in which they self-nominate.

WCSM also awards Crook and Fincham Medals which recognise exceptional and life-long achievement. The Crook and Fincham Medals are only awarded on the instruction of the governing Court. They are not available for self-nomination.

- A.3 The impact of each applicant's work in alleviating visual impairment can be claimed under any one of four categories: education, research, innovation, clinical leadership.
- A.4 Evidence must be uploaded to demonstrate the impact of the applicant's work over a sustained period of time, i.e. 7–25 years.



- A.5 The submission must make it clear what the individual, specific contribution has been rather than referring to the achievements of a team.
- A.6 Although work can be national or international in scope, the impact must relate to work carried out within the UK.
- A.7 Unsuccessful candidates in one medal round may reapply in subsequent years. Previous winners of the WCSM Bronze Ruskell and Master's Medals are welcome to apply for a Silver Medal. No person will be awarded the same category of WCSM medal more than once.

B. Submission

- B.1 A narrative "Impact Statement" (500-word limit) must be submitted, explaining how the work has made a distinctive and material contribution to the impact claimed, and specifically, the significance and reach of the impact. Impact is taken to mean the change or benefit to society the applicant's work has had through, for example, changes to health services, health policy or quality of life.
- B.2 The "Impact Statement" should be supported by evidence that provides independent corroboration of the impact.
- B.3 A maximum of six items of evidence can be provided to support the claims of impact.
- B.4 Specifically, the evidence should support claims for the significance and scope of the impact. For example, some work may produce results that are highly significant but only affect a small number of people, whereas other types of impact will be much broader in scope (affect more people) but not have such a high level of significance.
- B.5 The remit of the Silver Medal is broad, and so it is only possible to give an indicative list of evidence. Evidence may include, for example: improved patient outcomes; adoption of new technology or software; changes in education practice; feedback from patients or supervised students; records of, and outputs from, supervisions and collaborations; marketing of a new technology or device; changes to clinical guidance; improvements in training standards; changes to legislation; increased public awareness of eye health; new approaches to the early detection of eye disease.
- B.6 In addition, applicants must submit a full Curriculum Vitae.
- B.7 Additional weighting will be given for work involving different eyecare disciplines or multi-disciplinary work that brings together different fields to benefit those with visual impairment.

C. Assessment

- C.1 Submissions will be assessed by a panel of eminent scientists, both clinicians and academics, drawn from UK universities, hospitals and colleges and convened by the REM (Research, Education, public engagement and Medals) Group of the Worshipful Company of Spectacle Makers.



- C.2 All REM Group members and any other person involved in the assessment process will be required to declare any conflicts of interest; those with any professional links to the applicant will be excluded from scoring that submission.
- C.3 Specialists who are not current members of the REM Group may be approached for external review.
- C.4 The recommendation of the REM Group will be put forward to the Court of the Worshipful Company of Spectacle Makers for ratification. Once ratified by the Court, the decision is final. There is no right of appeal, and no individual feedback can be given.

D. The award

- D.1 The award will be made at one of the significant events in the Spectacle Makers' calendar, in order to ensure the award has public recognition. The Medal winner and a guest will be invited to join the Company as honoured guests at the said event.
- D.2 The winner will be presented with a silver medal and framed citation.
- D.3 WCSM will ensure that the award and the work for which it has been given are publicised widely. The applicant will be expected to give their consent for publication of an article and photo about the award, having been given an opportunity to confirm or clarify any statements made.
- D.4 Each Silver Medal winner will be invited to present their work in a lecture or other academic session sponsored or supported by WCSM.
- D.5 Medal winners may also be asked to provide their lecture in written form for later publication.