ACAM | Award Evaluation Guidelines

2026 Annual Awards · Guidance for the Award Evaluation Committee

Purpose and Scope

These guidelines support consistent, fair, and documented assessment of candidates for the Annals of Clinical and Analytical Medicine (ACAM) Annual Awards. Each award is granted only to candidates meeting the relevant category criteria.

Award Categories and Key Selection Criteria

AWARD CATEGORY	PRIMARY SELECTION CRITERIA
Best Original Research Award 2026	Original study; clear hypothesis, robust methods, reliable analysis, and a novel contribution.
Best Clinical Research Award 2026	Patient-centered research; clinically meaningful findings, appropriate design, and ethical approval.
Best Surgical Research Award 2026	Advances in surgical practice or outcomes; technical validity, safety, and clinical benefit.
Research Excellence Award 2026	Overall research quality, originality, rigor, reproducibility, and scientific contribution.
Best Paper Award 2026	Strongest overall scientific contribution among all eligible article types.
Best Case Report Award 2026	Educational value, diagnostic or clinical insight, and CARE adherence; rarity alone is insufficient.
Best Review Article Award 2026	Comprehensive, balanced, current synthesis; appropriate search approach and source quality.
Clinical Impact Award 2026	Demonstrable contribution to clinical decisions, patient management, or practice.
Best Experimental Research Award 2026	Sound experimental design, controls, methodological transparency, and biological relevance.
Young Investigator Award 2026	Published career/age eligibility criteria; independent scientific contribution and potential.
Author of the Year Award 2026	Verifiable authorship contributions during the year, scientific quality, and research integrity.
Most Downloaded Article Award 2026	Verified PDF downloads in the defined period, excluding automated traffic.
Most Read Article Award 2026	Verified article views in the defined period, excluding automated traffic.
Translational Research Award 2026	Effective linkage of basic science findings to diagnosis, treatment, or clinical application.
Diagnostic Excellence Award 2026	Diagnostic accuracy, validation, reference standard, and clinical applicability.
Editor's Choice Award 2026	Reasoned Editorial Board selection based on originality, quality, and relevance to journal scope.
Most Cited Article Award 2026	Verified citation count from a predefined data source and measurement period.
Clinical Innovation Award 2026	Feasibility, safety, and potential patient benefit of a novel clinical approach.
Best Multicenter Study Award 2026	Genuine multicenter design, consistency across sites, and generalizability.
Outstanding Reviewer Award 2026	Quality, timeliness, constructiveness, and ethical/confidential handling of peer reviews.

Evaluation and Decision Principles

Eligibility: Verify article type, publication year, data period, and category requirements; individual awards reflect personal contributions. Scientific assessment: Consider originality, methodology, ethics, reporting quality, and scientific/clinical impact. For metrics-based awards, use a predefined source and cutoff date. Impartiality: Disclose conflicts and recuse conflicted committee members; paid services, acceptance decisions, or personal relationships are not award criteria. Documentation: Record a brief rationale and verification evidence; decisions require editorial approval. An award may be withheld if no candidate qualifies.

Ethical Framework

The process is informed by the general principles of research integrity, editorial independence, transparency, and conflict-of-interest management associated with AMA, ICMJE, COPE, and WAME. This does not imply endorsement of the awards program by these organizations.