

# 2026 ACTA Awards

## Nomination guidelines and eligibility criteria

### ACTA Trial of The Year Award

Trials nominated for the **ACTA Trial of the Year Award** must have been collaboratively developed, multi-centre, investigator-led, randomised controlled trials designed to improve patient outcomes or healthcare delivery. The trial must have been designed and led by a network or investigator group that is a current Full or Associate Member of ACTA and the **primary results**<sup>1</sup> of the trial must have been published in 2025. The trial must not have previously received an Award or have been a runner-up.

A peer review panel of senior trialists appointed by the **ACTA Board**<sup>2</sup> will review all nominations and judge the trial that is the best demonstration of the following standards:

- It addressed a critical gap in the evidence or a significant innovation in healthcare delivery
- The quality of the research design, conduct and analysis were outstanding
- There is a high likelihood that findings from the trial will significantly impact clinical practice and policy and improve outcomes for patients or healthcare delivery

### Prize

The Chief Investigator of the trial receiving the **ACTA Trial of the Year Award** will receive \$2,500 to benefit their group and enhance the future of healthcare through the attendance at a conference, symposium or training course. An outline of how the funds will be expended is required.

### ACTA Awards ceremony

The Chief Investigator (or a nominated senior investigator) will be awarded a complimentary registration to attend and accept the award at the **2026 ACTA Trial of the Year Awards** on Tuesday August 25, 2026. Participation in media coverage surrounding the event is expected. Complimentary return economy airfares will be provided.

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<sup>1</sup> The first publication reporting the analysis of trial's primary endpoint as specified in the online trial registration profile. The published results of a different domain of a *previously awarded* platform trial is not eligible.

<sup>2</sup> The ACTA Board will consider the recommendations of the judging panels in making decisions to announce the winning trials. The ACTA Board's decision will be final.

## ACTA STInG Excellence in Trial Statistics Award

Trials nominated for the **ACTA STInG Excellence in Trial Statistics Award** must have been designed and led by a network or investigator group that is a current Full or Associate Member of ACTA and the **primary results**<sup>1</sup> of the trial must have been published (online or in print) in 2025. The trial must not have previously received an Award or have been a runner-up.

An expert panel of statisticians convened by **ACTA STInG** will consider the statistical methods summary provided along with the trial's published statistical analysis plan and primary results paper and judge the trial that is the best demonstration of the following standards:

- The statistical aspects of trial design and planning (sample size, randomisation, analytical methods) were of high quality, appropriate for the research question(s), and documented in a publicly accessible statistical analysis plan following good statistical procedures/practice
- The statistical analyses were executed as planned and, where not, deviations were transparent, of high quality, and executed well following good statistical procedures/practice
- The reporting and interpretation of the statistical aspects of the trial were appropriate, transparent, and supported by results from pre-specified analyses and/or well-defended departures from planned procedures following good statistical procedures/practice

### Prize

The Chief Statistician of the trial receiving the **ACTA STInG Excellence in Trial Statistics Award** will receive \$1,000 to benefit their group and build capacity and capability within the sector through the attendance at a conference, symposium or training course. An outline of how the funds will be expended is required.

### ACTA Awards ceremony

The Chief Statistician (or a nominated senior Statistician of the trial, network or investigator group) will be awarded one complimentary registration to attend and accept the award at the **2026 ACTA Trial of the Year Awards** on Tuesday August 25, 2026. Participation in media coverage surrounding the event is expected.

## ACTA Consumer Involvement Award

Trials nominated for the **ACTA Consumer Involvement Award** must demonstrate exceptional creative and collaborative initiatives that involved consumers, incorporating the needs and values of patients and the public into priority setting, trial protocol development and design. The trial must have been designed and led by a network or investigator group that is a current Full or Associate Member of ACTA. The trial must not have previously received an Award or have been a runner-up. For this Award, publication of the trial in the year 2025 is *not required*.

A peer-led panel of senior trialists and consumer representatives appointed by the **ACTA Board** will review all nominations and judge the trial that is the best demonstration of the following standards:

- Consumers were significantly involved in protocol development or design activities
- Consumer involvement provided valuable and exceptional guidance to the proposed conduct of the trial

## Prize

The Chief Investigator of the trial awarded the **ACTA Consumer Involvement Award** will receive \$1,000 to benefit their group and enhance the future of consumer involvement in healthcare through the attendance at a conference, registry or training course. An outline of how the funds will be expended is required.

## ACTA Awards ceremony

The Consumer Representative (or a nominated senior member of the investigator group) will be awarded one complimentary registration to attend and accept the award at the **2026 ACTA Trial of the Year Awards** on Tuesday August 25, 2026. Participation in media coverage surrounding the event is expected.

## ACTA HEAT Excellence in Trial-Based Health Economics Award

Trials nominated for the **ACTA HEAT Excellence in Trial-Based Health Economics Award** will be reviewed by an expert panel of health economists convened by **ACTA HEAT**. The trial must have been designed and led by a network or investigator group that is a current Full or Associate Member of ACTA and the economic analysis of the trial must have been published (online or in print) in 2025. The trial must not have previously received an Award or have been a runner-up.

This panel will consider the health economics methods summary provided within the trial nomination form, along with the trial's health economics analysis plan; health economics results paper and/or primary results paper and judge the trial that is the best demonstration of the following standards:

- The health economics aspects of trial design and planning (e.g. collection and valuation of healthcare use data, patient-reported outcomes) were of high quality, and appropriate for the research question(s)
- The health economics analyses were executed as planned (e.g. as stated in the Health Economics Analysis Plan (HEAP) and, where not, deviations were transparent, of high quality, and well executed following best practices
- The reporting and interpretation of the health economic analyses and sensitivity analyses were appropriate, transparent, and supported by results
- The health economics analyses make a significant contribution to trials methodology, or health and social policy, or health impact

## Prize

The Lead Health Economist awarded the **ACTA-HEAT Excellence in Trial-Based Health Economics Award** will receive \$1,000 to build capacity and capability within the sector through the attendance at a conference, symposium or health economics training course. An outline of how the funds will be expended is required.

## ACTA Awards ceremony

The Lead Health Economist (or a nominated senior member of the trial network or coordinating centre) will be awarded one complimentary registration to attend and accept the award at the **2026 ACTA Trial of the Year Awards** on Tuesday August 25, 2026. Participation in media coverage surrounding the event is expected.

## ACTA Clinical Quality Registry Award

Clinical Quality Registries nominated for the **ACTA Clinical Quality Registry Award** will be reviewed by an expert panel convened by the **ACTA Clinical Quality Registries Special Interest Group**. The Clinical Quality Registry must be a current Full or Associate Member of ACTA.

The panel will consider nominations based on the following in alignment with the [Australian Framework for National Clinical Quality Registries 2024](#) and judge the registry that is the best demonstration of the following standards:

- The governance of the registry: including demonstration of exceptional clinical and technical leadership, effective operational arrangements, the software and management systems in place, compliance with legislation and standards including participant identity controls and quality assurance processes
- Data quality: including the scope, scale and interoperability of the data, collection in alignment with core outcome sets and/or METEOR metadata standards (where defined), data linkage capacity and effective data analysis
- Impact: including reporting quality, engagement with relevant stakeholders and end-users of the data; relevant publications and the impact on health outcomes or services (annual reports may be attached as supporting evidence)
- Consumer involvement: inclusion of consumer representatives and/or advisory committees and the collection of PROMs and/or PREMs (where appropriate)

### Prize

The Lead Investigator or Chairperson awarded the **ACTA Clinical Quality Registry Trial Award** will receive \$1,000 to build capacity and capability within the sector through the attendance at a conference, symposium or registry training course. An outline of how the funds will be expended is required.

### ACTA Awards ceremony

The Lead Investigator or Chairperson (or nominated senior research member of the registry) will be awarded one complimentary registration to attend and accept the award at the **2026 ACTA Trial of the Year Awards** on Tuesday August 25, 2026 to accept the award. Participation in media coverage surrounding the event is expected.

## ACTA TRIPSIG Excellence in Trial Implementation Science Award

Alongside the judging process for ACTA Trial of the Year, nominated trials can also be reviewed by an expert panel of implementation scientists convened by the **ACTA Translation of Research into Practice Special Interest Group (ACTA TRIPSIG)** for the **ACTA TRIP SIG Excellence in Trial Implementation Science Award**.

This panel will consider the implementation research methods summary provided within the trial nomination form, along with the trial's published implementation plan (or trial protocol that contains implementation research methods – published and/or registered); implementation research results paper, and/or primary results paper to identify a trial for which:

- The implementation research aspects of trial design and planning (e.g. implementation methods, theories, models and/or frameworks, outcomes, analytical and statistical considerations) were of high quality, and appropriate for the research question(s)

- The implementation research analyses were executed as planned (e.g. in the trial protocol) – or where not, deviations were transparent, well justified, and executed to a high standard in accordance with best practices
- The reporting and interpretation of the implementation research aspects of the trial were appropriate, transparent, and supported by results
- The implementation research analyses and findings make a significant contribution to trials methodology, or the implementation science field, or health and social policy, or health impact

The **ACTA Trial of the Year Award** will be judged according to the criteria above, including whether the trial addressed a critical evidence gap and its likely impact on policy and practice. The **ACTA TRIP SIG Excellence in Trial Implementation Science Award** will be judged separately on the implementation research component alone. As such, it may be that the **ACTA Trial of the Year** wins both awards, or it may be one of the named finalists or a trial that otherwise does not make the finalists list for ACTA Trial of the Year wins the **ACTA TRIP SIG Excellence in Trial Implementation Science Award**.

### Prize

The winning trial group for the **ACTA TRIP SIG Excellence in Trial Implementation Science Award** will receive \$1,000 to build capacity and capability within the sector through the attendance of a clinical trial conference, registry symposium or training program. ACTA will seek a summary on how funds were invested back into implementation research or further supported career development in implementation science or practice.

### ACTA Awards ceremony

The Lead Implementation Scientist or a nominated senior member of the trials network or coordinating centre will be awarded one complimentary registration to attend and accept the award at the **2026 ACTA Trial of the Year Awards** on Tuesday August 25, 2026. Participation in media coverage surrounding the event is expected.

### Nominations

Nominations are now open and may be submitted via the [online form](#) available on the ACTA website.

The questions for each Award are provided in [Appendix 1](#).

**Nominations close at 5:00pm (AEST) Friday 5 June 2026.**

The ACTA office will contact all Award winners and runners-up by **Monday 3 August 2026**.

For any queries, please contact ACTA on +61 438 801 011 or [awards@acta.au](mailto:awards@acta.au)