SPA Awards Committee

Award of Merit – Research

Terms of Reference

2026 Version

PURPOSE: To recognize a SPA member involved in research directly related to physiotherapy or affecting the scope of practice of our profession.

HISTORY: Established in 1998.

CRITERIA: A current SPA member, who has (individually or in conjunction with other personnel) initiated and/or participated in research as stated above. This research may be in published or presented form. Qualifying research can be done by faculty members, graduate students, administrators, or clinicians. The committee will attempt to informally ensure that the award be rotated among these groups from year to year when this opportunity presents itself.

The spirit of this award is to particularly recognize research that has the potential to affect clinical practice. In addition, special consideration will be given to those individuals who have done one or both of the following:

- Pursued research over and above their usual job duties.
- Participated in a formal process of evidence-based practice and shown willingness to share results with the profession in a written or presented form.

NOMINATION PROCEDURE: Any SPA member may make nominations.
Nominations must be submitted in written form and must include:

- Name and contact information of nominator.
- Name and contact information for nominee.
- Name and contact information of a seconder who would support the nomination.
- One letter of support, outlining how the individual meets the criteria as stated above.
- Outline of the nature of the research, an abstract of the research, or a copy of the publication (if the research is published).
- CV or resume of the nominee (optional).

Deadline for submissions: February 13, 2026

SELECTION OF RECIPIENT: Made by the SPA Awards Committee. At the discretion of the Awards Committee and the SPA Board, more than one person or organization may win the award.

PRESENTATION: Annually – At the SPA Annual General Meeting. Award winners will be contacted by the committee prior to the AGM and invited to attend the awards presentation and make a brief response to the award received. A complimentary entry for the awards presentation will be provided to both the award nominator and the recipient.

FORM OF AWARD: Framed Certificate and $50 Value Prize