THE PAUL FREELING AWARD
APPLICATION 2026

Recognising innovative and meritorious contributions to GP Specialty Training and education.

Many doctors have been inspired, challenged or encouraged by an exceptional teacher. The Paul Freeling Award recognises outstanding GP educators, including trainers involved in GP Specialty Training, who have developed innovative teaching methods or gone the extra mile to provide high-quality, personalised education to doctors preparing for careers in general practice.

The Paul Freeling Award was established through the generosity of his widow, Mrs Shirely Freeling. Paul Freeling is particularly remembered as one of the authors of the seminal 1972 publication *The Future General Practitioner*. He initiated the Nuffield courses, establishing a model for training in general practice that remains relevant today. He had a profound influence on GP Specialty Training in the United Kingdom and maintained a lifelong commitment to promoting innovative approached to adult learning.

An annual award of £1,000, which may be presented as a single award or divided between multiple recipients, will be made to recognise the strongest submission(s).

The award will be presented at a College awards ceremony.

ELIGIBILITY, CRITERIA AND HOW TO ENTER

1. **Purpose of the Award:** The Paul Freeling Award recognises innovative or meritorious work in the field of GP Specialty Training in the United Kingdom. It is intended primarily to recognise individuals who make an outstanding contribution to the face-to-face teaching and education of GP trainees and registrars. This may include GP trainers, associate advisers, course organisers and Directors of Postgraduate Medical Education.

2. **Eligibility:** Applicants must be current Members or Fellows of the Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP) in good standing.

3. **Nominations:** Applications may be submitted by self-nomination or by nomination from another individual. All nominations must be made using the designated application form.

4. **Joint applications:** Applications may be submitted by or on behalf of two or more individuals for work undertaken collaboratively. In such cases, the respective contribution of each individual must be clearly described in the application.

5. **Supporting statement:** Applications must include a typed description of the work, project or innovation being submitted, with a maximum length of 500 words. The description should clearly explain the nature of the work, its innovative or meritorious contribution to GP Specialty Training and its impact.

6. **Supporting sponsors:** Each nomination must be supported by two sponsors, at least one of whom must be an RCGP Member or Fellow in good standing.

7. **Anonymity:** To ensure fairness, openness and transparency, applications will be anonymised before being considered by the adjudicating panel. Personal details provided in the initial sections of the application form (pages 3–4) will be removed. Applicants should therefore avoid including identifying information in the description of their work wherever possible.

8. **Adjudication:** Applications will be assessed by a College-appointed panel, which will include relevant GP educational experts.

9. **Submission of applications:** Completed application forms should be submitted via Award Force

10. **Closing date:** Applications must be received by **11 June 2027.**

11. **Award value:** An annual award totalling £1,000 will be made. At the discretion of the adjudicating panel, the award may be presented to a single applicant or shared between up to three joint winners.

12. **Presentation:** The award will normally be presented at a College awards ceremony.

13. **No suitable applications:** If no suitable applications are received in any given year, the award may be held over until the following year.

14. **Use of submissions for other College awards:** The same piece of work may only be submitted for one College award or prize within any three-year period.

15. **Use of application information:** Information provided in applications will be used solely to support the objectives of the RCGP in the administration of its awards.

16. **Adjudication decisions:** Following completion of the adjudication process and notification of the outcome to applicants, no further correspondence will be entered into regarding the panel's decisions.

PAUL FREELING APPLICATION FORM (MUST BE TYPED)

In the interest of openness and transparency, the adjudicators will be judging anonymised applications for this award. All personal details at the beginning of the form (pages 3-5) will therefore be removed. In the actual nomination/application itself, please anonymise as much as possible.

APPLICANT DETAILS:

If this is a joint application, please give information about each applicant using a separate page if necessary.

Name of applicant/nominee: **Address:** **Telephone:** **Email:**	**Is this application: Please indicate in box ✓** **a self-nomination? □** **by nomination? □** **College member □** **College Fellow □**

Signature of applicant/nominator: (can be copied and pasted below)

Date: .....

If this has been a *nominated* application, the nominee should sign here to indicate acceptance of the conditions set out on the criteria above

Signature of applicant/nominator: (can be copied and pasted below)

Date: .....

If you are acting as a nominator, please give your details and describe your relationship with the applicant:

PUBLICITY FOR THE AWARD

Please let us know where you saw this award advertised and whether you would like to see it advertised elsewhere

SPONSORS:

Please give details of two sponsors who are willing to support the application. At least one of the Sponsors must be a College Member or Fellow in good standing and have relevant specialist expertise in the field.

Name of Sponsor 1: **College Member:** □ **College Fellow:** □

Address:

Telephone:

Email:

Please describe your relationship with the applicant:

Indicate briefly your reasons for supporting this application:

Name of Sponsor 2: **College Member:** ☐ **College Fellow:** ☐

Address:

Telephone:

Email:

Please describe your relationship with the applicant:

Indicate briefly your reasons for supporting this application:

Please describe here the role of the applicant in the field of GP Specialty Training and how long they have been doing this:

In no more than 500 words, describe the innovation or meritorious work in the field of GP Specialty Training for General Practice which you wish to be considered for the Paul Freeling Award. Give details of the background and nature of the work, and describe (with evidence where applicable) its influence on GP Specialty Training both within the immediate training area and more widely. Published references can be cited here.