



Supporting occupational health
and wellbeing professionals

SOM Occupational Health Awards

Join us in this celebration of the superb work that occupational health professionals undertake every day. The SOM Occupational Health Awards showcase occupational health – demonstrating the value of occupational health to organisations and the wider community.

Nomination information

This new awards programme welcomes entries from occupational health practitioners and teams. There is a choice of nine awards to enter:

Award categories

- *Outstanding Occupational Health Initiative*
- *Outstanding Occupational Health Practitioner*
- *Outstanding Contribution by an Employer to Workplace Health and Wellbeing*
- *Outstanding Occupational Health Team*
- *Outstanding Contribution to Diversity and Inclusion*
- *Outstanding Contribution to the Development of OH Globally*
- *Outstanding Contribution to Occupational Health Research*
- *SOM Early Career Award*
- *SOM Lifetime Achievement Award*

The closing date for entries is 5pm, Monday 2nd November 2026. The awards will take place at the SOM Christmas Drinks reception on Tuesday 8th December 2026 in London.

Why enter?

RECOGNITION:... from peers and colleagues

PROMOTE GOOD PRACTICE: Let us help share your good practice so others can learn from your challenges and achievements. We can help you reach the media, professional press and other important forums.

A PERMANENT REMINDER: that reminds your patients, colleagues and peers of your professional achievements. Plus we give you photographs of you / your team with our guests of honour and sponsors.

REVIEW YOUR WORK: Seize the opportunity to review your project, and its impact, putting pen to paper.

PRIZE: An engraved trophy, national PR, profile in SOM e-news and website, and use of Award Winner 2026 logo.



Criteria

- Innovative leadership - e.g. influencing Boards for real health and business benefit
- Collaborative work - delivering and influencing as part of a multidisciplinary team
- Driving best practice and overcoming barriers beyond the traditional OH service model
- Innovation - e.g. on risk management and contribution to prevention

Judging

The Chair of Judges is Professor Kaveh Asanati. To avoid conflicts of interest, no judge is permitted to consider entries from a company / person they are associated with. After the entry deadline, the judges will be sent the entries and at this point the judges will inform SOM of any potential conflicts of interest.

Each judge will consider the entries on their own before coming together with their fellow judge/s to jointly agree on a winner. If they are not able to come to a joint decision, the decision will be deferred to the Chair of Judges.

Q and A

Do you have to be a SOM member to enter the Awards?

No; although you are welcome to join! The Awards are open to anyone working within the field of occupational health.

Who are the judges?

Each category is judged by at least two senior occupational health professionals with relevant expertise. In the unlikely event of the judges not being able to come to a decision on a category winner, the decision of the Chair of Judges, Professor Kaveh Asanati will preside.

If someone in our organisation is a judge, can we still enter the awards?

Yes, but the judge will not be assigned to a category which you enter.

Is my entry confidential?

Judges will not disclose information about entries. If your entry is successful, you will be asked to remove any information which is confidential. All entries are published on the SOM website as case studies (with the permission of entrants).

Do you offer feedback on entries?

Feedback is not provided on any entry.

Do you accept international entries?

Yes, you can be based in any country worldwide.

Is self-nomination allowed?

Self-nomination is not allowed for individuals. Self-nomination is not allowed for the OH Team award if your organisation has 16 or more employees; however, an OH Team can be nominated from their wider organisation. If your organisation has 15 employees or fewer, self-nomination within the OH Team is allowed.

Rules of entry

1. The closing date for entries is 5 pm, Monday 2nd November 2026. No entry received after this date will be judged.
2. All entries must be made via the SOM website. No paper entries will be considered.
3. Self-nomination is not allowed for team members for the OH Team award (unless your organisation has 15 employees or fewer – see Q&A above) or for individuals. A person/OH team can however be nominated from their wider organisation.
4. All entries have a total 250-word limit. If the word count is exceeded, only the first 250 words will be judged.
5. The 250-word entry for each winner will be published online, and available for public download, to promote best practice. The entry may also be used in future marketing of the SOM Awards.
6. Entries must include an attachment as to evidence of impact, including KPIs. Entries without this will not be considered.
7. Individuals may enter more than one category (note the entry requirements stated in the category criteria), but each entry must be submitted individually.
8. It is the responsibility of the entrant to have the written permission of any third parties involved in their application, prior to submitting the entry. Failure to do so will lead to disqualification. You may be asked to provide evidence of the permission.
9. The judges' decision is final and no correspondence or discussion will be entered into, or feedback given, regarding the selection of the highly commended awards, or winners.
10. The SOM reserves the right to not announce a shortlist should the standard of entries received not reach a minimum standard as determined by the judges.
11. In the event of disqualification, entrants will be contacted to inform them of the reason for the decision. As in point 9, the judges' decision is final and no correspondence or discussion will be entered into, or feedback given, regarding the selection of the highly commended awards, or winners.
12. In the event of a complaint against the highly commended or winning entry, the SOM will conduct an investigation and will request evidence and documentation from all parties concerned. Their recommendation will be forwarded to the Chair of Judges who will make the final decision.