

Abstract Submission Rules

Abstracts emerging ideas and clinical complexity in PKU and hyperphenylalaninaemias

The PKUCon 2027 Young Contributors session is dedicated particularly to emerging clinicians, researchers, dietitians, psychologists and allied healthcare professionals working in PKU, hyperphenylalaninaemias and related neurometabolic conditions. It combines a guided poster tour, 6 abstract-selected oral presentations, moderated discussion, audience voting and the PKUCon Rising Minds Award.

The session aims to promote original thinking, clinical curiosity, translational research and treatment optimisation in a field moving beyond dietary management towards precision metabolic medicine.

1 Young Contributor eligibility

Abstracts may be submitted by academic, clinical and industry-based authors and will be evaluated according to the same scientific criteria, irrespective of sponsorship status. However, only Young Contributors are eligible for oral presentation selection. To be eligible for oral presentation (Young Contributor), the presenting author must be under 40 years of age on 18 March 2027 or be currently undertaking, or within five years of completing, specialist training, a PhD, residency, fellowship or another relevant professional qualification.

Co-authors are not required to meet this criterion. The presenting author must declare eligibility in their submission email. Selection for an oral presentation and eligibility for the PKUCon Rising Minds Award apply to the presenting author.

2 Abstract submission topics

Submitted abstracts may address, but are not limited to, the following topics:

- **Difficult clinical cases in PKU and hyperphenylalaninaemias:** complex cases, unexpected phenotypes, diagnostic difficulties and multidisciplinary management.
- **Think outside the box, not everything is PKU:** symptoms or clinical trajectories not fully explained by PKU, comorbidities, alternative diagnoses, phenotypic overlaps and diagnostic anchoring errors. PKU may explain phenylalanine elevation, but it does not automatically explain every symptom.
- **Other causes of increased Phe:** BH4 defects, DNAJC12 deficiency, neurotransmitter disorders, pterin metabolism and the differential diagnosis of hyperphenylalaninaemia.
- **Translational ideas in neurometabolic medicine:** biomarkers, imaging, metabolomics, neurocognition, experimental models and new pathogenetic hypotheses.
- **Treatment optimisation:** dietary treatment, sapropterin, sepiapterin, pegvaliase, LNAA, GMP, protein substitutes, natural protein tolerance, adherence and personalised therapy.
- **Brain behaviour and quality of life:** neurocognition, psychiatric symptoms, executive function, sleep, fatigue, quality of life and patient-reported outcomes.
- **PKU across the lifespan:** infancy, adolescence, transition, adulthood, ageing, pregnancy, maternal PKU and women of childbearing age.
- **Precision monitoring and personalised care:** genotype–phenotype correlations, biomarkers, prediction of treatment response, digital tools, home monitoring and real-world data.

3 Abstract submission guidelines

- **Language:** UK English.
- **Length:** maximum 2,500 characters including spaces, excluding title, authors and affiliations.
- **Title:** maximum 25 words. Tables and figures are not permitted.
- **Structure:**
 - Original research abstract: Background; Aim; Methods; Results; Conclusions.
 - Case report or difficult clinical case: Background; Case presentation; Diagnostic or therapeutic challenge; Learning points.
 - Translational idea or concept abstract: Rationale; Hypothesis or unmet need; Proposed approach; Expected clinical or scientific impact.
- **Submission method:** abstracts must be submitted to PKUCon@issecam.org by **15 January 2027, 8 PM GMT**. The presenting author must be listed first and must submit the abstract. The submission email must indicate either “oral consideration” or “poster only” and must include the presenting author’s Young Contributor eligibility, funding and conflict-of-interest disclosures, and details of any previous presentation or publication.
 - A submitted abstract may be replaced by a revised version until the submission deadline. No changes will be permitted after 15 January 2027.
 - Abstracts submitted after the deadline will not be considered eligible.
- Encore abstracts may be accepted for poster presentation if any previous presentation or publication is fully disclosed. Abstracts containing substantive new data, analyses, follow-up or conclusions may also be considered for oral presentation. Exact encores are not eligible for oral selection or for the PKUCon Rising Minds Award.
- A maximum of two abstracts may be submitted per company. No more than one abstract from the same company may be selected for oral presentation, and a presenting author may deliver no more than one oral presentation.

4 Abstract evaluation and scoring

Each submitted abstract will be evaluated according to:

- Scientific quality: 30%
- Originality: 20%
- Clinical relevance: 20%
- Translational potential: 15%
- Clarity of presentation: 10%
- Alignment with PKUCon 2027 themes: 5%

You will be notified of the Presidents’ decision by 29 January 2027.

5 Abstract selection and presentation

- A limited number of abstracts will be accepted for poster presentation.
- Among the accepted abstracts, 6 will be selected for oral presentation in the Best Abstracts session.
- Every abstract selected for oral presentation must also be displayed as a poster.
- Accepted abstracts may be published in the digital congress materials, unless the submitting author requests exclusion from publication in the submission email.
- The presenting author of each oral abstract will be eligible for the PKUCon Rising Minds Award.

6 Best Abstracts session format

Each oral slot allows approximately 13 minutes for the presentation, with the remaining time reserved for introduction and transition between presenters. Presenters must remain available for the moderated discussion. Jury deliberation will take place separately from the public programme. Please refer to the website for more information on the exact timings.

7 Oral presentation scoring

The 6 oral presentations will be evaluated according to:

- Scientific content: 30%
- Originality and critical thinking: 25%
- Clinical or translational impact: 20%
- Presentation quality: 15%
- Discussion and ability to answer questions: 10%

8 PKUCon Rising Minds Award

One PKUCon Rising Minds Award will recognise the best Young Contributor oral presentation. The award includes an official certificate, a €1,000 cash prize and complimentary registration for the next PKUCon edition. The award acknowledges originality, clinical curiosity, resilience, critical thinking and the ability to advance patient-centred metabolic medicine beyond established paradigms.

The final result will be determined by:

- 70% Scientific Jury score, based on the oral presentation criteria above
- 30% audience vote

The award ceremony is planned for Saturday 20 March 2027 from 16:30 to 16:40, subject to final programme confirmation.

9 Scientific integrity, ethics and authorship requirements

- All funding sources, financial relationships and other potential conflicts of interest relevant to the submitted work must be disclosed during submission.
- Research and clinical cases must comply with applicable local ethical requirements. Appropriate patient or guardian consent must be obtained where required.
- Abstracts must not include names, images or other information that could identify an individual patient.
- The submitting author confirms the accuracy of the information provided and the approval of all co-authors.
- Submission constitutes permission to publish an accepted abstract in the digital congress materials, such as the PKUCon website, unless the submitting author requests exclusion from publication in the submission email.
- An oral selection is conditional on the presenting author registering for and attending PKUCon 2027. Operational deadlines will be communicated by the congress organiser.