

“STEMNET NEXT GENERATION – CONTEST 2026”
Call for Abstract
Award winners will also be invited as speakers at STEMNET 2026!

Introduction:

The speakers of the “*StemNet Next Generation - Section*”, within the framework of the conference “*StemNet 2026*” (Bologna, Italy, 12-13/03/2026), will be selected with the “*StemNet Next Generation – Contest 2026*”.

Award:

There will be 3 winners. They will be awarded with the “*StemNet Next Generation – Contest 2026 – Award*”, which consists of (I) a printed certificate, (II) a free registration to “*StemNet 2026*”, (III) an invitation for an oral communication during the conference “*StemNet 2026*” (approximately, 10 minutes of presentation and 5 minutes of questions). The other “*StemNet Next Generation – Contest 2026*” participants will be eligible for future webinars.

Rules:

Candidates must be researchers “under 40” (precisely, born no earlier than 01/01/1985). They must submit an abstract of a relevant scientific article in the field of stem cells. Eligible abstracts must be based on scientific articles published within the last four years (from 2022 fully included). Works that are currently under review are not eligible. The candidate must be First Author, co-First Author, Last Author, co-Last Author, Corresponding Author, or co-Corresponding Author of the scientific article. Each candidate may submit one abstract only, but they may be listed as authors of other abstracts submitted by different researchers. Winners of previous editions of the *StemNet*, *FIRST*, *IPLASS*, *GISM*, or *Stem Cells Research Italy* Next-Generation Contests are not eligible to apply. Candidates who participated in previous editions but were not selected as winners may reapply, provided they meet all other eligibility criteria. Abstracts related to scientific publications already presented by winners of previous editions of the *StemNet*, *FIRST*, *IPLASS*, *GISM*, or *Stem Cells Research Italy* Next-Generation Contests are not eligible. In the case of multiple applicants submitting the same abstract based on the same scientific publication, only the applicant obtaining the higher evaluation will be considered as the potential winner. Finally, in case of abstracts obtaining the same identical score, the one submitted by the older candidate will be scored as first.

Evaluation:

The abstracts will be evaluated by a panel of Referees (selected by the Scientific Committee), according to their novelty, significance and CV of the submitting candidate. The final acceptance decision is the exclusive right of the Scientific Committee, such as the definition of the 3 winners of the “*StemNet Next Generation – Contest 2026*”.

Instructions:

The “*StemNet Next Generation – Contest 2026*” is organised in 3 steps:

- First step: abstract submission; Deadline 16/01/2026: The submission of abstracts is free of charge and does not require membership to one of the StemNet societies.
- Second step: winners announcement; Deadline 01/02/2026: All the candidates will be notified by email.
- Third step: oral presentation at “*StemNet 2026*”: Winners must be present in person to obtain the award.

Disclosure:

The abstracts and the material collected during the “*StemNet Next Generation – Contest 2026*” will be made public on the StemNet’s websites (including the forming societies), Facebook/LinkedIn pages, YouTube channels and other media. By submitting an abstract, the authors accept to publicly share their material and then their work.

How to prepare the abstract:

Please, follow these instructions:

- Language: English. Font: Times New Roman; Font-size: 12 points; Text alignment: single-spaced, justified.
- Title: It must be a precise copy of the one of the related scientific article.
- Report the Author/s names and surnames in this format: Mario Rossi, Carla Bianchi, etc. They must be the same authors of the same related scientific article.
- Report the Author/s affiliations.
- Abstract: It must be a precise copy of the one of the related scientific article.
- Report the name of the scientific journal where the abstract and related scientific article have been published, together with year of publication.
- Report the day of birth of the candidate.
- Report the email of the candidate to be used for communications.
- Curriculum Vitae (CV): a brief biosketch reporting current position, main scientific appointments, and honours (minimum 100 words, maximum 250 words).

Abstract submission:

Save the Abstract and all the other info in a single Word/Writer/txt file with the following name: *STEMNET-NGContest26_firstName_firstSurname* of the candidate (e.g. *STEMNET-NGContest26_Mario_Rossi.doc*). The Abstract must be submitted to: *stemnetng@gmail.com* (please, check to receive an email confirming the receipt of submission).