

The Julian Costello Travel Bursaries

Opportunity for potential future leaders in Primary Health and Care Informatics to attend the Medical Informatics Europe (MIE) 2026 Conference in Genoa, Italy

The Primary Health Care Specialist Group (PHCSG) of the BCS is offering up to three £1,250 travel awards for early career Health and Care Informaticians to attend Medical Informatics Europe (MIE) in Genoa, Italy on 25-28 May 2026. MIE is the annual European Informatics conference co-organised by the European Federation of Medical Informatics (EFMI) and [PragmaCongressi](#). These awards are named in memory of [Dr Julian Costello](#) a long-time member of the PHCSG.

Eligibility

The awards are specifically for applicants whose main area of informatics interest is primary care, be they working in primary care, a primary care support organisation or primary care related research, whatever their discipline and however part time. This would include those in vocational training.

The applicants must be early in the health informatics component of their career (5 years or less). We are looking for those who can show potential and enthusiasm for the discipline, who are developing their careers and looking forward to new challenges.

Other characteristics which will also be considered, but are not mandatory:

- Undertaking a post-graduate degree in health informatics at a UK university
- A member of the current Digital Academy cohort or any UK Digital Health and Care Programme.
- Working in a Digital Health role
- Demonstrable potential to make a meaningful contribution to Health and Care Informatics and the PHCSG.

Application

To apply you need to write a proposal on one side of A4, maximum 800 words, in the following structure:

1. Who are you (include your email, phone number, correspondence address and current employer with their contact details)
2. How you meet the award criteria and why do you want to attend?
3. Make clear how are you involved in **Primary Care** informatics.
4. What areas of health informatics covered by the conference are of most interest and relevance to you?
5. How can you help promote Health and Care Informatics and the PHCSG?
6. How will attendance contribute to your personal and career development?

Applications will open on **1st December 2025**. Submit your application as a word document or pdf file attachment and send it to the secretary vicechair@phcsg.org with a copy to john@fairstead.net

The closing date for applications is **Monday 2nd February 2026 at 5pm.**

Applications will be reviewed, and the winners selected by a subgroup of the Primary Health Care Specialist group committee. The committee decision is final. It is intended that the winner will be notified by **16th February**.

The winning applicants will be expected to join the Primary Health Care Specialist Group (PHCSG) as soon as possible. PHCSG is a part of the British Computer Society (BCS) Health and Care Faculty. This will ensure the members rate when registering for the conference. The early bird discount ends on 24th February. They can claim travel expenses (to a maximum total budget of £1,250 which include the members rate conference fee, travel, accommodation, and subsistence, including the conference dinner). These must be claimed by **30th June 2026**.

The winners will:

- be asked to write a 1000-word blog for the PHCSG website. ([see previous blogs](#))
- be asked to contribute to social media during the event. To be agreed with the PHCSG social media representative prior to the event.
- be asked to produce a brief paper, poster or video on learning from the conference to be presented at the PHCSG conference in the autumn.

Full details about MIE 2026 can be found at <https://mie2026.efmi.org>

Enquiries should be submitted to john@fairstead.net

The awards are funded by the Medical Software Group