

Onco-Pitch, MEDCON'26 – Submission Guidelines

Onco-Pitch is a five-minute breakthrough pitch competition within MEDCON'26, focused on oncology and healthcare innovation. Finalists will present a concise, high-impact idea to an expert jury and conference audience.

Who can apply?

- Open to **current medical students** (any year, any country).
- Applications can be **individual** or in **teams of 2** (both members must be medical students).
- All shortlisted finalists must hold a **valid MEDCON'26 registration ticket** to be eligible to present.

What kind of ideas are we looking for?

We welcome original, medically grounded concepts that address meaningful problems in:

- Oncology (prevention, diagnosis, treatment, survivorship, palliative care)
- Healthcare delivery and systems (access, workflow, equity, cost, quality)
- Research methods, digital health, technology, or interventions with clear clinical relevance

Your project can be:

- An **early-stage concept** or hypothesis
- **Ongoing research** or quality-improvement work
- A **technology, tool, or process innovation**
- An **established project** with a clearly defined next breakthrough step

All submissions must be **original** and scientifically/medically accurate. Participants are responsible for the integrity of their claims.

What you need to submit

1) Applicant and team information

- Full name(s), year of study, medical school, and country
- Email address and phone/WhatsApp number for all team members
- Indicate whether you are applying as an **individual** or **team of 2**
- If applicable, name of a **faculty advisor/supervisor** (name, role, institution, email)

2) Project overview

- **Project title** (working title is fine)
- **One-sentence summary** of your idea (max 25 words)
- **Field / category** (tick all that apply):
 - Oncology – clinical care
 - Oncology – research / translational science
 - Digital health / AI / data
 - Medical education / training
 - Health systems / quality improvement / policy
 - Other (specify)

3) Structured abstract (for screening)

Maximum **300 words**, using the following headings:

- **Problem / limitation:** What important unmet need or gap are you addressing?
- **Why it matters:** Who is affected and why is this important now?
- **Breakthrough idea:** What is your original concept, method, technology, or intervention?
- **Novelty:** How is this meaningfully different from existing approaches?
- **Expected impact:** What could change clinically, scientifically, or societally if your idea succeeds?
- **Next step:** What is needed to test, develop, validate, or implement the idea?

4) Preliminary slide deck (recommended for shortlisting)

Upload a **preliminary PowerPoint/Google Slides deck** (4–6 slides, PDF or PPTX) that outlines your concept. This does not need to be your final competition deck, but should be clear enough for the screening committee to understand your idea.

Suggested structure:

1. **Title slide**
 - Project title
 - Team member(s) name(s) and medical school
 - Optional: simple visual that captures the problem or solution
2. **Problem & why it matters**
 - Clear description of the clinical or system problem
 - Who is affected (patients, clinicians, health system)
 - Any key data or context (1–2 bullet points or a simple figure)
3. **Current approaches & gaps**
 - Briefly describe existing solutions or standard of care
 - Highlight the key limitation(s) your idea addresses
4. **Your breakthrough idea**
 - Core concept, method, technology, or intervention
 - How it works in practice (1–2 simple diagrams or flow points are ideal)
5. **Impact & next steps**
 - Expected clinical/scientific/societal impact if successful
 - Immediate next step(s): pilot, prototype, validation study, implementation plan, etc.

Keep text minimal; use visuals where helpful. The jury will use this to assess originality, relevance, and feasibility during shortlisting.

5) Optional short video pitch (optional)

You may upload a **1–2 minute video** (MP4 or unlisted YouTube/Vimeo link) in which one team member:

- States the problem and why it matters
- Summarizes your breakthrough idea
- Explains the potential impact

How submissions will be shortlisted

A screening committee will review all abstracts and select **3–5 finalists** based on:

- **Originality and innovation**
- **Relevance to oncology / healthcare**
- **Clarity of the proposed solution**
- **Potential for meaningful clinical, scientific, or societal impact**

The final number of finalists may depend on available programme time; up to **5 finalists** are anticipated.

Pitch format for finalists

If shortlisted, you will:

- Deliver a **5-minute individual pitch**
- Follow the structure: **Problem** → **Why it matters** → **Breakthrough idea** → **Impact / next step**.
- Use **1–3 simple slides** that support (not repeat) your spoken words.
- Present in **English**.
- Participate in a **short Q&A** with the jury and audience after your pitch.

A visible countdown timer will be used; pitches exceeding 5 minutes may be stopped.