

Théa international contest of clinical cases in Pathologies of the eye

**- TROPHY RULES**

**[2026-2027]**

**Article 1 – Overview**

The Théa international contest of clinical cases in Pathologies of the eye (TROPHY) is designed to encourage presentation and communication skills of interns, residents\* and fellows in ophthalmology.

It is an online contest organized in two rounds. The TROPHY is open to international interns, residents and fellows of the countries listed in Article 2 and takes place every year. The TROPHY is subject to the general terms and conditions of the TROPHY rules.

Participants present clinical cases they were involved in and which are original from a scientific standpoint. The clinical cases shall be related to a pathology which can be different from year to year.

The clinical cases should not allow to directly identify a patient. They need to be at least pseudonymized and at best anonymized, within the meaning of the applicable regulations under European law on the protection of personal

The first round occurs with a national level grade: the cases from the different countries are submitted to a national jury from another country which selects the best presentations for each country. Then, an international jury designates three winners among the best cases from the first round.

The winners' awards are detailed in article 8 of these Rules.

Information on the contest is given through a dedicated website. The registration and the submission of the clinical cases will also be processed through the website.

\*As per the regulations outlined in the official rules of the TROPHY contest in France, this provision does not apply to residents of France.

**Article 2 – Participants**

Candidates must be interns, residents and fellows in ophthalmology.

Candidates must be based in one of the following countries and must be reasonably fluent in English:

Algeria ; Austria, Albania, Belgium, Bulgaria, Brazil; Canada, Chile Croatia, Cyprus ; Czech Republic,; Denmark, Dubai ; Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Mexico; Morocco; Norway, Peru; Poland, Portugal, Romania, Saudi Arabia ; Serbia,

Slovenia, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Tunisia ; United Kingdom, United Arab Emirates; Ukraine.

A candidate can only present one case per edition. However, repeated participation in the future edition is possible.

### **Article 3 – Submission of case**

The case can report on one or several patients. Due to data protection reasons, participating clinician is obliged to obtain the “Patient Consent Form” (a separate document). This form remains with the clinician but must be provided to Laboratoires Théa upon request during five (5) years from the announcement of the TROPHY contest results.

Submitted cases must be original (never published at the time of submission). The case can include presentations, diagnoses and/or management of ocular disease and must be related to the topic of the contest. If the case is considered out of the scope of the topic of the contest, it will be disqualified and not included in the evaluation process.

A dedicated website will inform the candidates on the rules of the contest. Candidates must register online and submit their case written in English on this website before 18th of October 2026.

The case must be submitted by the candidate who must be the main author and should not be submitted by anyone else on their behalf. Co-authors can be declared however the prize will be attributed exclusively to the main author who submitted the case. The author must declare any competing interests.

- When submitting their presentation online, the candidate:
- certifies that they have legal capacity to participate in the contest;
- certifies that they are interns, residents or fellows.
- shall not breach any confidentiality agreement with their employer or any other third party;
- fully accepts the present rules;
- certifies that they were personally and directly involved in the management of the case;
- certifies that the submitted case is original and has not been previously published at the time of the submission;
- certifies they have any and all authorization and approval to include the corresponding documentation (photos, video, etc.) in the case report;
- declares and certifies that they have duly informed patients whose pseudonymized data are used and collect their consent to the processing of their personal data for the purposes of preparing the case, sending it to Laboratoires THEA for analysis by the jury, publishing it on the TROPHY website and presenting it at professional scientific events;
- shall indemnify, defend and hold Laboratoires THEA harmless from and against any and all third party claims, suits, proceedings, damages, costs, liabilities and expenses (including, without limitation, reasonable attorneys’ fees) arising from their negligence or wilful misconduct in connection with the TROPHY.

If there is any interest which might be considered prejudicial to the independence of a candidate, such conflict of interests should lead to the rejection of the candidate.

Subject to the national laws or to any code of conduct regarding the medical professionals in the country the candidate resides in, the candidate certifies that such regulation doesn't prevent him/her from participating in the contest, in particular in consideration of his/her status as resident. Should the national regulation require that the candidate declares or asks prior approval for his/her participation in the contest, the candidate shall be responsible for such declaration and shall keep available to Laboratoires THEA the proof of such procedure.

Participants could participate several times to the Trophy contest submitting a new case for entering the challenge.

#### **Article 4 – Case structure**

The presentation should be written in English in Word format. Illustration of the case by pictures and imaging is recommended. A maximum of 10 pages is allowed.

**The presentation should contain only the data about a patient that is strictly necessary to understand the case. In any case, it should not contain any element that could directly identify a patient (surname, first name, facial photograph, full date of birth, full date of death, etc.).**

The clinical case should be divided into the following sections (in this order):

- **Title page:** with the title of the case without identification of the author.
- **Introduction:** The introduction section should explain the background of the case, including the disorder, usual presentation and progression and an explanation of the presentation if it is a new disease. It should also include a brief literature review.
- **Case presentation with illustrations and figures:** The case presentation should contain a description of the patient's relevant demographic information (without adding any details that could lead to the identification of the patient); any relevant medical history of the patient; the patient's symptoms and signs; any tests that were carried out and a description of any treatment or intervention. If it is a case series, then details must be included for all patients. Cases can include clinical photographs, provided these are accompanied by written consent to publish from the patient(s) and are limited to what is strictly necessary.
- **Discussion:** This is for additional comments that provide any additional relevant information not included in the case presentation, and that put the case in context or that explain specific treatment decisions.
- **Conclusion:** A brief conclusion of what can be learnt from the case report and what the clinical impact will be. Information on how it will significantly advance knowledge of a particular disease etiology or drug mechanism can be included. This should state clearly the main conclusions of the case report and give a clear explanation of their importance and relevance.

- References: The full author's name, qualifications, institutional addresses, current position they hold at institutions or societies, or any other relevant background information and email addresses must be included in the curriculum vitae not in the presentation.

The presentation and appendix (image, video,) shall:

- be at least pseudonymised and at best anonymized, and subject to the patient prior written consent
- not infringe upon the privacy or personal rights of others

### **Article 5– Process**

The reviewing process is strictly confidential, and all TROPHY international have agreed to the following: "I understand the confidential nature of the clinical cases, and I will not discuss their contents with any individual, nor will I make copies of clinical cases for my own or others' use. Also, I will not review any clinical cases where a conflict of interest may be perceived."

TROPHY international jury seeks high-quality clinical cases describing original, unpublished research results.

The evaluation of the clinical cases will be conducted by an international jury appointed at random. To ensure impartiality, cases originating from a given country shall not be reviewed by jury members from that same country selected through the random allocation process. The evaluation will take place between [2026–2027].

Contestants will remain non-directly identifiable from the beginning until the end of the contest. To ensure an independent and fair vote, a random identification number will be given to each submission.

This number will be used throughout the entire process and will not be disclosed to the contestant himself nor the juries.

Laboratoires Théa will not release any information that might help identify the contestants. Likewise, members of the juries will remain non-directly identifiable to the contestants until the end of the contest.

The evaluation will be based on the following criteria to obtain a final mark out of one hundred:

- aligned with the topic of the contest
- originality
- clarity
- Contribution to knowledge in ophthalmology
- Illustrations

Following the evaluation conducted by the international jury, the three clinical cases that obtain the highest overall scores shall be designated as the three international winners. The national winners shall be the cases achieving the highest score within their respective country, compared with all other cases submitted from the same country.

The decision of the jury will be final and binding.

## **Article 6 – Juries of experts**

The international jury is independent and agrees to participate on a confidential basis in the evaluation of the clinical cases submitted.

Each year, the jury is selected by LABORATOIRES THEA and renewed according to the members' expertise relevant to the themes of the competition.

The international jury shall not receive any remuneration for the evaluation of the cases.

## **Article 7 – Important dates and venues**

[OCTOBER 18th2026] – deadline for submission of the cases. According to the number of cases, Théa can decide to extend the deadline for the submission. A communication will be done on the Trophy website.

[FEBRUARY 2027] selection of the National and international winners by the international jury

[MAY 2027] – ARVO annual meeting in SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA, USA

[OCTOBER 2027] – EVER annual meeting

## **Article 8 – Awards**

8.1 The case of the three winners designated by the international jury will be published on the TROPHY website.

8.2 Subject to the relevant regulatory authorities' approval, the three winners designated by the international jury will be invited twice at ARVO annual meetings: at the Laboratoires Théa symposium at ARVO 2027 to present their case in front of their peers, and

at the ARVO 2028 if they submit a poster of their case or another research project at the congress. At their request, the winners may benefit from Laboratoires Thea's mentoring/coaching in preparing their posters.

8.3 Subject to the relevant regulatory authorities' approval, all national winners will be invited at EVER 2027 annual meeting in Europe.

8.4 Laboratoires THEA will organize and cover the expenses for the travels mentioned in articles 8.2 and 8.3 above, in economy class, the hotel accommodation for the whole event duration as well as the registration fees to the event. No other costs or expenses will be covered by Laboratoires THEA.

8.5 In accordance with the French law n° 2019-774 dated July 24, 2019, financing hospitality, directly or indirectly, is prohibited for health students in initial training (who are not graduated yet) and their associations. Hospitalities include the costs of accommodation, transport, meals, registration, offered by entities manufacturing or marketing health products, directly or indirectly, during events of an exclusively professional or scientific nature, or during events promoting health products, products or services. Thus, for French residents in ophthalmology and health students in initial training, Laboratoires THEA will not be able to reward the winners according to the terms

set forth in articles 8.2 and 8.3 above in order to comply with the French legal framework. As a reward, Laboratoires THEA will award the French winners a research grant. Such a benefit will be reported by Laboratoires THEA to the competent authority under the authorization or declaration regime, depending on the amount of the said grant (article L. 1453-8 of the French Public Health Code).

8.6 In accordance with Article L. 1453-1 of the French Public Health Code, Laboratoires THEA will publicly declare the procurement of this benefit (including its amount) in the manner set forth by applicable regulations at the time of granting the benefit.

It is expressly understood that Laboratoires THEA will only cover the expenses of the winners, excluding any other person.

For interns, residents and fellows based in another country, Laboratoires THEA shall comply with local or international applicable law, regulation or code of conduct regarding the declaration to a medical council or any competent entity where the resident or fellow is registered and with the reporting and declaration to a public audience or a competent authority of any interests it may have with the resident or fellow.

## **Article 9 – Intellectual property**

The participants remain owners of the presentations submitted to the contest and their exploitation rights associated thereto. However, Laboratoires THEA reserves the right to use and reproduce the clinical cases with the pictures included and the name and photograph of participants in order to support public relations activities, in particular without limitation, congress scientific materials, TROPHY website.

For this purpose, by accepting the present Terms and conditions, the Participant expressly and irrevocably grants to Laboratoires THEA a worldwide and royalty free license to use all or parts of the intellectual property rights (as mentioned below) arisen from the establishment of the case report (clinical cases). This license is granted for the legal duration of protection of the licensed rights as defined by the French Intellectual Property Code or international conventions.

The licensed rights pertaining to the case report (clinical cases) includes notably:

- a) The right of reproduction, meaning the right to reproduce or to have reproduced, in a number at Laboratoires THEA's convenience, the elements of the case report either in whole or in part, on any known or unknown tangible supports, such as paper format or electronic format like CD-I, CD-ROM, CDV, DVD;
- b) The right of representation, which is the right to release or to have released publicly the elements of the case report either in whole or in part, either alone or associated with other elements, by any tangible means, including on the Internet; this right notably implies the rights for Laboratoires THEA to publish, diffuse, and edit any document containing the elements of the case report either in whole or in part;
- c) The right of adaptation which is the right to directly or indirectly adapt the elements of the case either in whole or in part on any supports, including notably the right to modify them and to insert them into other documents or elements;

- d) The right of translation into any languages including computer language the elements of the case either in whole or in part.

The participant declares to be the sole holder of the intellectual property rights on the content of the elements of the case report and represents and warrants that these elements do not include any reproduction and/or adaptation of any third parties' work in whole or in part, or more generally, any reproduction and/or adaptation of any right of third parties that would infringe any intellectual property rights belonging to a third party.

### **Article 10 – Data privacy**

The TROPHY contest involves the processing of personal data under the responsibility of Laboratoires THEA, based on its legitimate interest in organizing this type of event and in promoting its brand and image. However, certain operations may be subject to a legal obligation incumbent on Laboratoires THEA in such contexts to which Laboratoires THEA is subject (when applicable : declaration of the financial participation covered by Laboratoires THEA to the medical council where the participant is registered or to the competent authority and public disclosure).

In this context, your personal data collected as part of your participation in the TROPHY contest are processed by Laboratoires THEA in order to organise the contest. Unless otherwise stated on the registration form, the collection of this data is mandatory for this purpose. Otherwise, Laboratoires THEA will not be able to consider your application for the contest.

Personal data about the candidates will remain non-directly identifiable to the jury(ies) until the end of the contest.

The recipients of the data are Laboratoires THEA, its subsidiaries, the members of the jury at the end of the contest, any subcontractors of Laboratoires THEA which may be involved in the organisation of the TROPHY (IT service provider, travel agents for example), as well as the general public in the event of publication of your case by Laboratoires THEA.

You have the right to access, rectify and delete your data, as well as the right to object or to request the limitation of the processing, under the conditions and within the limits provided for by the regulations.

To exercise these rights, you can contact our Data Protection Officer and ask your questions at the following address: [dpo@theapharma.com](mailto:dpo@theapharma.com) or by post: Laboratoires Théa, DPO, Service Juridique, 12 rue Louis Blériot, Z.I. du Brézet, 63100 Clermont-Ferrand, France

If your efforts are unsuccessful or if you are dissatisfied with our response, you can lodge a complaint with your national data protection supervisory authority or the CNIL in France (<https://www.cnil.fr/fr/plaintes>).

Laboratoires THEA draws participants' attention to the fact that they are fully responsible for the processing of the initial data they use to compile and send their case studies to Laboratoires THEA.

Participants are fully responsible for selecting the personal data that is strictly necessary to include in their case study. Laboratoires THEA is not involved in assessing the relevance of personal data, nor in its analysis and use for the purposes of the study.

It is therefore the responsibility of participants to organize the information provided to the patients concerned and to obtain their explicit consent for the reuse of their data within the framework of the TROPHY contest, it being understood that Laboratoires THEA provides an information and consent form template to be used to help participants fulfill their obligations.

Finally, in order to guarantee the confidentiality of cases studies submitted in the context of the TROPHY contest, Laboratoires THEA has chosen not to collect the consents thus obtained. However, participants undertake to keep these consents and to submit them to Laboratoires THEA on request during five (5) years from the announcement of the TROPHY contest results in order to be able to prove, if necessary, the lawfulness of the transfer of data associated with the case studies.

#### **Article 11 – Modification of the rules**

Laboratoires THEA reserves the right to amend the articles of these rules, without notice, mainly to reflect changes in legislation, judicial decisions, new regulatory rules, and recommendations made by organizations responsible for the administration of the Internet.

Every modification will be announced on the website of the contest.

#### **Article 12 – Miscellaneous**

The present rules are construed under French law.

Any and all disputes arising from the interpretation of these rules shall be settled amicably. In case of persistent disagreement on their application, and the absence of agreement, any dispute shall be exclusively settled by the competent courts of Paris, France.

In the event that any provision of these rules shall be found to be unlawful, void or, for any reason, unenforceable, such provision shall be deemed severed from and shall in no way affect the validity or enforceability of the remaining provisions.

*Version of February 02<sup>nd</sup>, 2026*