



CMSC

Design for Rehabilitation Competition

CMSC DESIGN FOR REHABILITATION COMPETITION 2026: CALL FOR PROPOSALS

PURPOSE:

The *CMSC Design for Rehabilitation Competition* brings together healthcare providers, engineering schools, and patients to collaborate on creating devices that significantly improve the quality of life for those with Multiple Sclerosis (MS). This competition emphasizes the power of interdisciplinary collaboration while offering young innovators real-world design challenges and the opportunity to present their innovations on a competitive platform.

WHAT TO DO

Identify a Problem

- Pinpoint a specific MS-related challenge that can be addressed with a new assistive device.

Build a Team

- **Required:**
 - Undergraduate or graduate students (at least one with engineering background).
 - Faculty advisor.
 - A healthcare provider (MD, PT, OT, NP, PA).
 - Choose a team leader and contact person.
- **Optional:**
 - Local MS centers or healthcare facilities.
 - Patients.
 - Industry partners.

Design, Prototype, and Test

- Software-only apps are not eligible.
- Must be developed < 18 months of the competition.
- Test and refine prototypes with team members.

Submit Proposal

- Include all required sections noted on [FAQ Page](#).
- Competitors will be informed shortly after if they meet the requirements.
- Top projects selected to attend CMSC.
- Conference registration instructions afterwards.

Submit Intent to Travel

- Register for conference and/or send proof of travel.
- Travel grant application sent afterwards.

Submit Final Pitch Materials

- 5-minute pitch deck.
- Include sections noted on [FAQ page](#).

DEADLINES:

ASAP	Complete Interest Form
Jan 30, 2026	Submit Proposal
Mar 9, 2026	Conference registration and/or proof of intent to travel + travel grant application
May 11, 2026	Final submission materials due

COMPETITION DETAILS

Event: CMSC 2026 Annual Meeting (40th Anniversary)

Location: Charlotte, NC

Date: May 27–30, 2026

Format: In-Person: min 1 student required to attend per team, max 4 students

Prize: \$1,000 award

Travel Grants: Selected teams invited to CMSC can apply. Not guaranteed.

OTHER IMPORTANT DATES

February 9, 2026	Teams invited to CMSC announced
March 23, 2026	Travel grant winners notified
May 29, 2026	Overall competition winners announced at award ceremony

OPPORTUNITY

- Meet and compete against like-minded, innovative students from across North America.
- Present innovations to thousands of clinical and technical professionals.
- Gain professional development through workshops, tours, and industry networking.
- Receive solution validation and recommendations from clinicians, industry, and judges.
- Learn directly from leading researchers.

ORGANIZERS:

Christopher Luzzio, MD - luzzio@neurology.wisc.edu

Mikaela Morelli, EIT - mikaelamorelli.6@gmail.com

Shaiv Mehra - mehra19@purdue.edu

For more information, please reach out to our organizers or visit: <https://cmscscholar.org/> or the [FAQ page](#).