



What are the Pistoia Alliance Data Science Talent Awards?

The Pistoia Alliance Data Science Talent Awards were established in 2024 to recognize, nurture and reward data scientists working in the life sciences industry.

In March 2025 we crowned our first winner of our Young Data Scientist of the Year Award at our annual European Conference at the Royal Society of Medicine in London. Nima Hojat from CPI gave a winning presentation on: "Intracellular Drug Delivery Centre- A Data-Driven Approach to Optimising Lipid Nanoparticle Formulations".

Following such a positive reception from the industry, this year alongside our Young Data Scientist of the Year we are introducing a new category - Data Science Team of the Year.

Who can enter and what are the criteria?

We welcome entries from across the biopharmaceutical ecosystem, from academia to pharma as well as suppliers to the life sciences industry.

For Young Data Scientist of the Year:

- Entrants must be 30 years or younger at the time of undertaking the project submitted for this award. This project must have been completed in 2025.
- Entrants must be available to present in-person at our London Conference on April 13-14, 2026 in order to be selected as a finalist.
- Members and non-members are invited to enter this award.

For Data Science Team of the Year:

- Entries will only be accepted from Pistoia Alliance members.
- Your entry must relate to a project completed in 2025.
- One member of your team must be available to present in-person at our London Conference on April 13-14, 2026 in order to be selected as a finalist.

What are the benefits of entering the Pistoia Alliance Talent Awards?

The Pistoia Alliance Talent Awards is a unique program of excellence that celebrates the contribution data scientists make to the life sciences industry. There is no other program like this in our industry that recognizes, nurtures and rewards success.

This is your opportunity to shine as a rising star in the industry and/or as part of a collaborative team dedicated to advancing science and new breakthroughs.

All shortlisted entrants will receive acknowledgement via the Pistoia Alliance's communications channels, raising your awareness and reputation in the industry. Finalists and winners will receive even greater publicity, celebrating their skills and contribution to advancing the life sciences. This initiative not only supports personal development but helps boost the awareness and brand value of participating organizations.

What are the key dates entrants should be aware of?

- Submission Deadline: February 20, 2026
- Shortlist Announced: March 13, 2026
- Finalists available to present in-person at the Royal Society of Medicine, London, April 13-14, 2026
- Winner announced at Pistoia Alliance London Conference: April 13-14, 2026

How do I enter?

Simply complete our short form on our website.

If you are entering our Young Data Scientist of the Year Award you will need a nomination from your manager and their details must be included on your entry form.

Can I enter if I entered or was selected as a finalist last year in the Young Data Scientist of the Year Award?

Any entrant that meets the criteria for either of our awards is welcome to enter again this year, however this year's entry must be based on a different project/initiative than entered last year.

How are the winners chosen?

Once the entry deadline closes your application will be reviewed to ensure that you meet our criteria and a shortlist of candidates will be drawn up.

Our esteemed panel of judges are drawn from across the industry and comprise high profile industry thought-leaders who are committed to developing and nurturing talent.

Our judges this year are:

- Lars Greiffenberg, Senior Director R&D Information Research, Abbvie
- Bryn William Jones, Founder and Chief Operating Officer, Connected Discovery
- Julie Huxley-Jones, Vice President, Scientific Digital & Tech, Vertex
- Anastasia Christianson, Senior Consultant in life sciences

Our judges will select three finalists from each of our two award categories who will be invited to present their projects/initiatives at our London Conference on April 13-14, 2026.

Our conference awards ceremony will include a people's vote which will ultimately determine who wins each category.

Are there prizes for winners?

Yes. In addition to the prestige and kudos that comes from winning a Pistoia Alliance Data Science Talent Award, our winners will gain access to key Pistoia Alliance training resources and access to industry experts involved in the awards program. In addition:

- The winner of our Young Data Scientist of the Year Award will receive a cash prize of \$1,500.
- Our winning Data Science Team of the Year will receive \$1,500 and can choose to either donate this to a charity of their choice or to receive vouchers to split between participating team members.

Can I sponsor the awards?

Our Young Data Scientist of the Year and Data Science Team of the Year Awards are sponsored by the Pistoia Alliance and supported by our team of judges.

However, we are looking for a sponsor for our award ceremony evening at our London Conference, April 13-14, 2026. If you are interested in discussing this or any other Pistoia Alliance sponsorship opportunities please contact our Marketing and Event Lead Catherine.Maskell@pistoiaalliance.org.