The POMS College of Humanitarian Operations & Crisis Management (HOCM) invites all researchers/practitioners to submit their papers to the HOCM Best Paper Award Competition. The objective of the competition is to identify and honor outstanding papers in the fast-growing field of HOCM. Naturally, the topic of the paper should fall within the scope of HOCM.

Submissions will be judged based on four equally weighted criteria:

1. **Theoretical contribution** – how important is the research question being investigated, and how well does it fill a need or gap in the literature?
2. **Methodological rigor** – are appropriate methods being used correctly and effectively?
3. **Practical relevance** – what is the potential impact of the paper on human life?
4. **Future research potential** – does the paper offer research directions that could open new avenues of research in HOCM?

All research methods, including field/case studies, empirical and analytical methods are welcome.

The best paper will qualify for an expedited review process, and publication if accepted, by the Disaster Management Department of the POM Journal.

To be eligible to be considered for the HOCM Best Paper Award Competition:

- The paper must present original research and cannot have been previously published or accepted for publication at the time of submission.
- The paper abstract must have been accepted for presentation at the POMS conference.
- At least one of the authors must register for the conference and present the paper at the conference as part of the HOCM track.
- Individuals may not be the first author on more than one submission to the competition.

Note that papers under review at the time of submission can participate in the competition. However, to be eligible for an expedited review at the POM Journal, the best paper cannot be under review at a different journal. **Finalists in the competition will be expected to attend the HOCM business meeting and awards ceremony, and to present their paper within a special session that will be held just before that meeting.**

Submission Process:

1. **Submit an abstract** of the paper either as an invited or contributed presentation in the HOCM Track using the POMS conference website, **before the conference abstract submission deadline**.

2. Please forward both a copy of the abstract AND the full-length paper by no later than **29th January**, along with a short email to the HOCM VP for Awards, Melih Celik (M.Celik@bath.ac.uk), indicating that you would like to enter the best paper award competition. Your email should include: (i) the title of the paper, (ii) list of all authors with their affiliations and email addresses, and (iii) the assigned abstract number of the paper. The e-mailed copy of the paper should be free of any information that may identify the authors, and it should use the POM journal manuscript guidelines (http://www.poms.org/journal/author_instructions/). The paper should not exceed 38 double-spaced pages using size 11 font, including tables, figures and appendices.