CITELINE BIOTECH AWARDS 2026

ENTRY GUIDE

ENTRY DEADLINE: **FRIDAY, JULY 17, 2026**

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2026

BOSTON, MA, USA

HEADLINE SPONSOR ICON

ENTRY AND GENERAL INQUIRIES:
Natalia Kay
Email: natalia.kay@citeline.com

www.citeline.com/en/awards/citelineawards

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THE CITELINE BIOTECH AWARDS

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THE CITELINE BIOTECH AWARDS: CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE IN CLINICAL RESEARCH AND R&D INNOVATION

The Citeline Biotech Awards honoring the biotech organizations, teams, and individuals advancing science, driving clinical trial excellence, and shaping the future of healthcare.

The Citeline Biotech Awards 2026 return with a renewed focus for our tenth anniversary, celebrating excellence at the forefront of biotech research, development, and clinical innovation. Recognized as one of the industry's leading global programs.

This year, we've introduced new categories designed to reflect the dynamism of the biotech sector spotlighting outstanding achievement in oncology, neuroscience, rare disease drug development, patient-first approaches, and transformative technology innovation, alongside the recognition of partnerships, clinical research teams, breakthrough trial results, and the most coveted accolade of the evening, BioPharma Company of the Year. Together, the categories capture the speed, scientific conviction, and patient focus that define the biotech model.

Join us in recognizing the exceptional contributions of the biotech community.

Submit your entry to share your achievements with our distinguished panel of experts for the opportunity to gain global recognition and be celebrated among the very best in biotech innovation.

THE 2026 CATEGORIES ARE:

1. **Excellence in Rare Disease Drug Development**
2. **Excellence in Oncology**
3. **Excellence in Neuroscience Award**
4. **Clinical Research Team of the Year – Biotech**
5. **Sponsor/Service Provider Partnership of the Year**
6. **Technology Innovation of the Year**
7. **Patient-First Award**
8. **Clinical Trial Result of the Year**
9. **Achiever of the Year –** parexel
10. **Biopharma Company of the Year –** ICON

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WHY ENTER?

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JOIN US IN HONORING THE PASSIONATE TRAILBLAZERS WHO DEDICATE THEIR TALENTS AND TO TRANSFORMING HUMAN LIVES

Join us in honoring the passionate trailblazers who dedicate their talents and to transforming human lives. This is more than an Awards ceremony—it's a tribute to innovation, resilience, and the relentless pursuit of breakthroughs that redefine the future of health.

Showcase Your Achievements at the Citeline Biotech Awards!

Submit your entry for a chance to gain global recognition and access unparalleled promotional and networking opportunities:

- **Highlight** your company's innovations to a global audience.
- **Connect** with key prospects, customers, and partners.
- **Boost** your brand with our global marketing campaign.
- **Impress** an esteemed judging panel of influential industry experts.
- **Network** with top executives at the prestigious Awards ceremony in **November**.

> **There's no limit on entries, so put your company in the spotlight across multiple categories!**

HOW TO ENTER:

VISIT – www.citeline.com/en/awards/citelineawards

CREATE – your online account.

SELECT – your category or categories.

COMPLETE – your online entry form(s) explaining why you or your company should be considered a winner this year. Please refer to the category criteria as a guide.

SUBMIT – your entry and you will receive an automated submission receipt from a member of the Events team.

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CATEGORIES AND ENTRY CRITERIA

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1 EXCELLENCE IN RARE DISEASE DRUG DEVELOPMENT

The attempt to combat rare diseases is a challenging task that exemplifies how the pharmaceutical industry addresses unmet medical needs. This Award will recognise the efforts of an individual, team, or company that demonstrated excellence while developing a drug intended to treat rare diseases. The judges will be looking for a drug development programme or trial with the largest potential impact in the rare disease space. Outstanding patient-centric processes and innovation in study conduct to overcome the various obstacles of rare disease drug development will also earn high marks.

To be eligible, drug development activities must have taken place between January 2025 and July 2026. Entrants must have played a role in drug development and/or trial conduct, and all joint parties must be disclosed in the application.

> **"This Award will recognise the efforts of an individual, team, or company that demonstrated excellence while developing a drug intended to treat rare diseases."**

To enter this category, please provide the following:

- The name of the individual, team, or company, including an outline of their role(s).
- Details of the drug development programme or clinical trial, i.e. rare disease(s) being targeted, name of drug(s), trial name(s) (title, protocol ID, trial identifier), phase, patient segment(s) studied, and sponsor(s).
- Evidence of the impact that the drug has had, or potentially could have, on the patient population and addressing unmet medical needs.
- Any unique strategies used to ensure successful study execution within this challenging space, such as trial design, patient-centric processes (e.g. close engagement of patient advocacy groups), innovative patient recruitment methods in identifying potential trial participants, use of synthetic controls, or study planning strategies (e.g. use of surrogate markers or original tools and approaches to gather key clinical data).
- If available, documentation (URL) in support of the achievements described.

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CATEGORIES AND ENTRY CRITERIA

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2 EXCELLENCE IN ONCOLOGY

Cancer drug development has been transformed by the biotech sector. From pioneering immuno-oncology approaches to precision medicine and novel targeted therapies, biotech companies have consistently pushed the boundaries of what is scientifically and clinically possible in oncology. Operating with speed, scientific conviction, and a willingness to tackle the hardest problems, biotech organisations have become the engine of oncology innovation bringing first-in-class and best-in-class therapies to patients who have long faced limited options. This Award will recognize a biotech company that has demonstrated outstanding achievement in the research, development, or clinical execution of an oncology program, and whose work reflects the very best of what the biotech model can deliver.

To be eligible, drug development or clinical trial activities must have taken place between January 2025 – July 2026. Entrants must have played a role in the oncology program and all joint parties must be disclosed in the application.

> **““Biotech companies are redefining the future of cancer treatment combining cutting-edge science with an unwavering focus on patients who need new options most. This Award celebrates those leading that charge.”**

To enter this category, please provide the following:

- The name of the biotech company and an outline of the team or individuals involved, including their role(s) in the program.
- Details of the oncology program or clinical trial, including the cancer type(s) targeted, name of drug(s) or therapeutic approach, trial name(s) (title, protocol ID, trial identifier), phase, patient segment(s) studied, and sponsor(s).
- What makes this program distinctly representative of biotech innovation? Describe how the company’s scientific focus, agility, or culture enabled progress that might not have been achievable within a larger organisation.
- Provide evidence of the impact that the program has had, or potentially could have, on patient outcomes and the broader oncology landscape. Where relevant, include data on clinical endpoints, regulatory milestones, or pipeline advancement.
- Describe any innovative approaches employed, such as novel mechanisms of action, biomarker-driven patient selection, combination strategies, antibody-drug conjugates, cell or gene therapy approaches, adaptive trial design, or use of real-world evidence to support development decisions.
- Describe how the company has managed the inherent risks and resource constraints of oncology drug development, and what this demonstrates about the team’s resilience, scientific rigour, and commitment to patients living with cancer.

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3 EXCELLENCE IN NEUROSCIENCE AWARD

Neurological and psychiatric conditions represent some of the most scientifically complex and historically underserved areas of medicine. Biotech companies have increasingly become the driving force behind bold, first-in-class approaches to these devastating diseases bringing scientific creativity, agility, and patient focus to an area where large-scale drug development has historically struggled to deliver. This Award will recognize a biotech company that has demonstrated outstanding achievement in the research, development, or clinical execution of a neuroscience program. The judges will be looking for a company that has leveraged the unique strengths of the biotech model speed, innovation, and scientific conviction to meaningfully advance the standard of care or address a significant unmet medical need in neurology or psychiatry.

To be eligible, drug development or clinical trial activities must have taken place between January 2025 – July 2026. Entrants must have played a role in the neuroscience program and all joint parties must be disclosed in the application.

> **"Biotech companies are redefining what is possible in neuroscience bringing bold science and relentless focus to conditions that have long resisted progress. This Award celebrates those at the frontier of that effort."**

To enter this category, please provide the following:

- The name of the biotech company and an outline of the team or individuals involved, including their role(s) in the program.
- Details of the neuroscience program or clinical trial, including the neurological or psychiatric condition(s) targeted, name of drug(s) or therapeutic approach, trial name(s) (title, protocol ID, trial identifier), phase, patient segment(s) studied, and sponsor(s).
- What makes this program distinctly representative of biotech innovation? Describe how the company's size, focus, or scientific approach enabled progress that might not have been achievable within a larger organisation.
- Provide evidence of the impact that the program has had, or potentially could have, on patient outcomes and the broader neuroscience landscape. Where relevant, include data on clinical endpoints, regulatory milestones, or pipeline advancement.
- Describe any innovative approaches employed, such as novel mechanisms of action, use of biomarkers or neuroimaging endpoints, patient-reported outcome measures, digital health tools, adaptive trial design, or strategies specifically developed to overcome the challenges of central nervous system drug development.
- Describe how the company has managed the inherent risks and resource constraints of neuroscience drug development, and what this demonstrates about the team's resilience, creativity, and commitment to patients.

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4 CLINICAL RESEARCH TEAM OF THE YEAR

The winning biotech research team will have made significant contributions in advancing a new therapy through one or more clinical phases. The judges will be looking to reward the high-performing team that has been most successful in reaching its goals, adopted effective working practices, achieved major milestones within expected timelines, and contributed to the advancement of new therapies.

To be eligible, the core project for the nominated team must be ongoing or completed between January 2025 and February 2026. Entrants must have played a role in the core project for the product.

> **"The judges will be looking to reward the high-performing team that has been most successful in reaching its goals, adopted effective working practices, achieved major milestones within expected timelines, and contributed to the advancement of new therapies."**

To enter this category, please provide the following:

- The company's name, the team being entered, and basic details of its core project.
- What was the greatest achievement of the team during the qualifying period?
- How did all members/functions of the team work together to achieve its goals?
- How does the achievement contribute to advancing new therapies to market?
- What work practices has the team adopted to support the success of the product's development?
- If you believe that this team is particularly outstanding for reasons not covered in the questions above, please give relevant details.

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5 SPONSOR/SERVICE PROVIDER PARTNERSHIP OF THE YEAR

Partnerships for this award must be between a pharmaceutical or biotech company and a contract research organisation.

To be eligible, the collaborative clinical trial activity in question must be ongoing or completed between January 2025 and February 2026. Entrants must have played a role in the collaborative clinical trial activity, and all joint parties must be disclosed in the application.

> **"This Award will be presented to two or more organizations who have set a new benchmark in partnering through collaborative clinical trial activity that took place in 2025/26."**

To enter this category, please provide the following:

- The names of organisations involved and basic details of the partnership.
- Why was the partnership novel?
- How does this partnership set a new benchmark for other deals?
- How has the partnership achieved an outcome that would not have been possible if the partnership had not been created?
- If available, documentation (URL) in support of the achievements described.

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6 TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION OF THE YEAR

Technology is fundamentally reshaping the way clinical research is designed, conducted, and delivered. From artificial intelligence and machine learning to decentralised trial platforms, digital biomarkers, and advanced data analytics, the application of innovative technology across the drug development continuum is accelerating timelines, improving data quality, reducing patient burden, and unlocking insights that were previously out of reach. This Award will recognize a company or team that has developed or applied a technology-driven solution that has made a measurable and demonstrable impact on clinical research or drug development. The judges will be looking for innovations that go beyond incremental improvement solutions that are genuinely transformative, scalable, and represent a meaningful step forward for the industry.

To be eligible, the technology solution must have been developed or applied between January 2025 – July 2026. Entrants must have played a role in the development or implementation of the technology, and all joint parties must be disclosed in the application.

To enter this category, please provide the following:

- The name of the company or team and an outline of the individuals involved, including their role(s) in developing or implementing the technology.
- A clear description of the technology solution, including the problem it was designed to solve and the clinical research or drug development context in which it was applied.

> **"This Award will recognize a technology solution that has moved beyond promise and into proven impact transforming the way clinical research is conducted and setting a new benchmark for innovation across the industry."**

- Specify the date of first implementation and the current stage of deployment — for example, whether the solution is in active use across one or multiple trials, programmes, or organisations.
- Outline the key features and benefits of the technology and provide evidence of the measurable impact it has had on study timelines, data quality, patient experience, cost efficiency, or other relevant performance metrics. Where applicable, include quantitative data to support any claims made.
- What is genuinely novel about this solution? Describe how it differs from existing approaches and why it represents a meaningful advance for the field rather than an iteration of current practice.
- Describe the scalability and broader applicability of the technology. How could this solution be adopted more widely across the industry, and what barriers to adoption have been addressed or remain?
- If available, please provide additional supporting documentation such as a process flow chart, product demonstration video, published data, or other publicly available materials that illustrate the technology and its impact.

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7 PATIENT-FIRST AWARD

At the heart of every clinical trial, every drug development program, and every regulatory milestone is a patient. The most meaningful advances in clinical research are not measured solely in data points and endpoints they are measured in the lives changed, the burdens reduced, and the voices heard. Across the biopharmaceutical industry, a growing number of organisations are embedding patient centricity not as a principle, but as a practice fundamentally redesigning how trials are conceived, conducted, and communicated with the patient experience at the centre. This Award will recognize a company, team, or individual that has demonstrated an exceptional and authentic commitment to putting patients first going beyond compliance and convention to ensure that the needs, preferences, and perspectives of patients genuinely shape the way clinical research is designed and delivered.

> **"This Award celebrates those who have made a genuine and lasting commitment to ensuring that the patient voice is not just heard but acted upon placing the people at the heart of clinical research firmly at the centre of every decision."**

The judges will be looking for entries that demonstrate real, measurable impact on the patient experience not simply good intentions or standard practice. Evidence of meaningful collaboration with patients and patient advocacy groups, innovative approaches to reducing patient burden, and a demonstrable shift in how the organisation thinks and operates will all be highly valued.

To be eligible, the activities or initiatives under nomination must have been undertaken between January 2025 – July 2026. Entrants must have played a role in the design, launch, or execution of the patient-focused activities, and all joint parties must be disclosed in the application.

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7 PATIENT-FIRST AWARD

To enter this category, please provide the following:

- The name of the company, team, or individual being nominated, including an outline of their role(s) in the program or initiative.
- A description of the clinical trial, drug development program, or broader organisational initiative in which the patient-first approach was applied, including the therapeutic area, patient population, and development phase where relevant.
- Describe the specific activities or strategies implemented to prioritise the patient experience. At what stage of the program were they introduced, and how were patients or patient advocacy groups involved in shaping them?
- Provide evidence of the impact these activities had on patients — this might include improvements in recruitment or retention, reductions in patient burden, stronger patient-reported outcomes, increased diversity of trial participation, or qualitative feedback from patients and caregivers.
- What was genuinely novel or courageous about this approach? Describe how it went beyond standard practice and what challenges were overcome in embedding a patient-first philosophy into the program or organisation.
- Describe how the learnings from this initiative are being carried forward either within the organisation or shared more broadly across the industry to advance the standard of patient centricity in clinical research.

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8 CLINICAL TRIAL RESULT OF THE YEAR

The judges will be looking to reward the clinical trial with the largest commercial impact, highest impact on patient population, the greatest disruption in a market, or the advancement of clinical trial design. This might include the first demonstration of a clear clinical effect for a new drug in an area of unmet medical need, a pivotal study of a new drug with a breakthrough mechanism of action, or a major study of a potential new or expanded indication for an already marketed product.

To be eligible, results for the study under nomination must have been presented in the public domain between January 2025 and July 2026. Entrants must have played a role in the clinical study, and all joint parties must be disclosed in the application.

> **"This Award will recognise the clinical trial which reported results that had the greatest impact and is expected to lead to an advance in healthcare."**

To enter this category, please provide the following:

- Full details of the study, i.e. trial name (title, protocol ID, trial identifier), phase, disease type and patient segment(s) studied, sponsor(s), and the primary drug(s) tested.
- A summary of the major findings of the study, including all primary/co-primary and main secondary endpoints, and safety endpoints.
- Evidence supporting uniqueness and advancement of knowledge in an area of unmet medical need or clinical trial design.
- How do these findings represent a potential leap forward in therapy?
- Documentation (URL) of publicly available trial results required, i.e. press release, conference abstract/presentation, clinical study report synopsis or other publication.

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9 ACHIEVER OF THE YEAR SPONSORED BY parexel

This award will go to someone who has had a distinguished career in R&D or clinical research, working at a biotech company. The nominee should have a history of successful projects that have had a positive impact on human health. Metrics can include scientific publications and citations; patents and involvement in innovation; involvement in clinical trials and drug approvals; and contributions to the development of future scientists and leaders in the field through mentorship, training programmes, and leadership roles in professional organisations.

> **"With this award, we are looking to recognise the accomplishments of an exceptional individual with a consistent history of significant contributions to the biotech research and development field"**

Nominees may be retired or still working at a biotech company.

All nominations must include:

- The nominee's name and job title.
- The company name (if applicable).
- If an investigator, the names of major clinical trials the nominee has been involved in.
- Your contact details.
- The contact details of the nominee.
- A summary of up to 750 words of why your nominee is worthy of receiving the Award.

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10 BIOPHARMA COMPANY OF THE YEAR SPONSORED BY ICON

The biopharmaceutical industry demands extraordinary things from the organisations that operate within it. Scientific excellence, clinical execution, commercial acumen, and an unwavering commitment to patients must all be sustained simultaneously often in the face of significant uncertainty, resource constraints, and the relentless pressure of an industry where the stakes could not be higher. This Award will recognize the biopharmaceutical or biotech company that has demonstrated the most outstanding overall performance across the clinical research and drug development landscape during the qualifying period. This is the most prestigious award of the evening a recognition not of a single achievement, but of an organisation that has excelled across multiple dimensions and demonstrated what it truly means to be a leader in this industry.

> **"The Bio Pharma Company of the Year Award is the most coveted recognition of the evening celebrating an organisation that has excelled across every dimension of what it means to be a leader in biopharmaceutical research and development, and whose work during the qualifying period has made a genuine and lasting contribution to the advancement of human health."**

The judges will be looking for a company that has made a measurable and meaningful impact across a broad range of activities from scientific innovation and clinical execution to patient engagement, partnerships, and organisational culture. A compelling Company of the Year entry will tell a coherent story of an organisation firing on all cylinders, whose collective achievements during the qualifying period set it apart from its peers and reflect a clear and authentic commitment to advancing human health.

To be eligible, the activities and achievements under nomination must have taken place between January 2025 – July 2026. All joint parties involved in any nominated activities must be disclosed in the application.

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10 BIOPHARMA COMPANY OF THE YEAR SPONSORED BY ICON

To enter this category, please provide the following:

- The name of the company and a brief overview of its focus, size, and the therapeutic area(s) in which it operates.
- Provide a summary of the company's most significant achievements during the qualifying period. These might span clinical trial results, regulatory milestones, pipeline advancement, new partnerships, technology adoption, or organisational initiatives — and should collectively paint a picture of a company performing at the highest level across multiple fronts.
- Describe the company's approach to scientific and clinical innovation during the qualifying period. What has the organisation done to push the boundaries of what is possible in its therapeutic area(s), and what evidence exists of the impact this has had?
- How has the company demonstrated a commitment to patients during the qualifying period? Describe specific initiatives or approaches that illustrate how patient centricity is embedded in the organisation's culture and operations, rather than treated as a peripheral consideration.
- Describe any significant partnerships, collaborations, or licensing agreements entered into during the qualifying period, and explain how these have contributed to the company's overall performance and strategic ambitions.
- How has the company demonstrated leadership in areas beyond clinical research for example in diversity and inclusion, sustainability, community investment, talent development, or employee culture? Provide specific examples and, where possible, evidence of impact.
- What does the company's performance during the qualifying period say about its longer-term trajectory? Describe how the achievements of 2025/26 position the organisation for future success and reflect its broader mission and values.

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JUDGED BY AN ESTEEMED PANEL OF JUDGES

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JUDGING PROCESS

Judged by Industry Leaders

The Citeline Biotech Awards is proud to feature an independent judging panel of senior, globally recognized industry experts, carefully selected for their expertise, impartiality, and credibility.

How It Works

- Judges review submissions within their areas of specialization, ensuring each entry receives expert, focused attention.
- Every category is evaluated by at least three judges against clear, published criteria, with scores out of ten determining the shortlist and ultimate winners.
- The chair of the Judging Panel may cast a deciding vote if necessary, ensuring fair and thorough adjudication

Transparency & Confidentiality

- Shortlisted entries will be announced on our website.
- Winners remain confidential until revealed at the Citeline Biotech Awards ceremony.
- The judges' decisions are final, with no correspondence entered into regarding results.

Showcase Your Excellence!

Visit **www.citeline.com/awards/citelineawards** to learn more.

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Friday, July 17, 2026

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WHO CAN ENTER

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THE CITELINE BIOTECH AWARDS ARE OPEN TO ANY RESEARCH BASED PHARMACEUTICAL OR BIOTECH COMPANY

Open to any research based pharmaceutical or biotech company operating anywhere around the world, as well as to some third-party or partner companies that supply services to the pharmaceutical industry.

You can enter as many relevant categories as you wish.

THE RULES

All entries must be written in English.

- Limit your entry to 1000 words or less.
- All entries must be accompanied by a 100-word synopsis of the entry as you would like it to appear on all publicity material (this is in addition to the 1000 words or less entry).
- All entries must be submitted via our online system
- All entries must be based on activities undertaken between January 2025 – July 2026.
- Companies may enter more than one category, provided that each entry has been specifically written to address the relevant criteria and is accompanied by a separate 100-word synopsis.

CONFIDENTIALITY

- The organizer of the Citeline Biotech Awards, recognizes and respects the sensitive nature of the information submitted in the entries. We ensure that this recognition is shared by our Judging Panel. We therefore require each judge to sign a confidentiality agreement before they are appointed.
- Entries are not disclosed or discussed outside the judging process.
- Once an entry is shortlisted, extracts from the entry summary only will be sourced for inclusion in the Awards ceremony and any subsequent editorial coverage.
- Please ensure your entry summary contains no confidential or sensitive information. The Judging Panel for each Award is selected to avoid any conflict of interest.

HOW TO ENTER

VISIT – www.citeline.com/awards/citelineawards

CREATE – your online account

SELECT – your category or categories

COMPLETE – your online entry form(s) explaining why you or your company should be considered a winner this year. Please refer to the category criteria as a guide

SUBMIT – your entry and you will receive an automated submission receipt and an invoice will be sent to you shortly after your submission

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FAQ's

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Q: How do I enter?

A: It's very straightforward!

1. Read the entry guidelines and category criteria.
2. Choose the categories you wish to enter.
3. Create an account on our entry system, where you can save and edit your entries until submission.
4. Answer the category-specific questions and criteria.
5. Once ready, click *Submit*!

You can review and edit your entries up to the submission deadline on Friday, July 17, 2026

Q: How much does it cost to enter?

A: Entries for the Citeline Biotech Awards are free of charge

Q: When is the entry deadline?

A: Friday, July 17, 2026

Q: What if I'm unsure about the right category?

A: Contact Natalia Kay at natalia.kay@citeline.com for guidance.

Q: Can I enter the same submission into multiple categories?

A: : Yes! Submitting to multiple categories is encouraged. Tailor your entry to each category's criteria.

Q: I am a sponsor of the Awards. Can I still enter?

A: Absolutely! Sponsors are welcome to enter any category—except the one they are sponsoring.

Q: How will I know my submission has been received?

A: You'll receive an automated confirmation email once your entry is submitted. Additionally, our Awards team will follow up after the entry deadline. For concerns, contact Natalia Kay at natalia.kay@citeline.com.

Q: How will I know if my submission is successful?

A: All entrants will be notified via email after judging. Finalists will also be announced on our website: www.citeline.com/en/awards/citelineawards.

Q: How can I ensure I attend the networking ceremony?

A: Secure your spot at this exclusive event by booking your place. For more information, contact Natalia Kay at natalia.kay@citeline.com.

Q: Are there other ways to get involved in the Awards?

A: Yes! We offer various sponsorship opportunities. For details, reach out to Chris Keeling at christopher.keeling@citeline.com

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CITELINE BIOTECH AWARDS 2026

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2026

BOSTON, MA, USA

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ENTRY AND GENERAL INQUIRIES

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SPONSORSHIP AND ATTENDANCE INQUIRIES

Chris Keeling, Sales Director:

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