

AAPA 2026 Research Submission Guidelines

Share your expertise and become a recognized expert within the PA profession.

Join us at AAPA 2026 from Friday, May 15, 2026, to Tuesday, May 19, 2026, in New Orleans, La., at the New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center. We hope to see you there!

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PRESENTATION FORMATS, DATES, AND TIMES

Presentation Format

Research in Action: 25-minute time block. Prepare to speak for approximately 20 minutes and answer questions for 5 minutes. (CME; includes honorarium for 1 speaker per session; CME room)

ePoster Research Rounds: 25-minute time block, 3 authors speak for 6 minutes each and have time available at the end to meet with attendees. (CME; no honorarium; CME room)

ePoster Meet the Authors: 60-minute time block, 10 authors speak for 4 minutes each and have time available at the end to meet within attendees. (non-CME; Expo Hall)

Important Dates

Event	Date
Submission portal open	December 1, 2025-January 11, 2026
Notice of acceptance	February 20, 2026
CME materials due	March 2, 2026
CME presentations due	April 6, 2026
ePosters due	April 12, 2026

Presentation Times

Date	Research in Action & Research Rounds	ePoster Meet the Authors
Fri 5/15	1 to 5 pm	
Sat 5/16	8 to 11:30 am, 1 to 3 pm	5:15 to 6:15 pm
Sun 5/17	8 to 11:30 am, 1:30 to 2:30 pm	9:15 to 11:25 am, 1:30 to 2:30 pm, 2:45 to 3:45 pm
Mon 5/18	8 to 9 am, 10:45 to 11:45 am, 12:15 to 2 pm	12:30 to 2:45 pm
Tue 5/19	8 am to 11:30 am	

All days and times are subject to change.

At least one author is required to register for AAPA 2026 and attend their presentation session. Authors are responsible for all costs associated with registration, travel, lodging, and ePoster creation. We do not currently have scholarships available for presenters.

Please do not submit a proposal if at least one author is not able to register and attend.

FAQ: Presentation formats, dates, and time

Do I have to register for the conference?

One author must register and be present to submit their research at the conference.

AAPA 2026 THEMES AND PRESENTATION TYPES

Themes

We are looking for presentation proposals related, but not limited, to the following themes:

Wellness

Research in this area may address the wellness initiatives within the PA profession; the roles PAs play in fostering wellness among medical teams and patients; the influence of trauma-informed care, resilience-building strategies, and workplace culture on provider and patient wellness.

PA Role and Practice

Research in this area may address the reach of the PA profession; PAs roles on, as well as the dynamics of, medical teams with, a focus on team collaboration; innovations into the expanded roles of PAs; and how legislation and systems influence the way PAs practice.

PA Impact

Research in this area may address the role PAs play in providing quality healthcare, improving patient satisfaction, or increasing access to care. It may also address public awareness or perceptions of PAs; or PA utilization as it relates to the cost effectiveness, or medical liabilities, of healthcare.

Understanding the PA Workforce

Research in this area may address issues of diversity with the profession; PA specialization trends; the ability for PAs to have career flexibility; workforce projections; or how national and state practice barriers are impacting PAs.

Innovation

We are looking for research that highlights creative ways PAs are finding ways to help PAs increase access to care, implementing innovative treatments, establishing novel work teams, and developing PA Programs. Share research on creative ways to break down barriers and improve patient care.

Research Types

The presentation **does not have to include new primary research**. Rather, we are looking for research with clear application to the PA profession. If you have a project that you think will spark an idea for research in others, consider submitting your work! In addition to:

- New original research on PAs and PA education,
- Case studies and clinical reviews of unusual conditions,
- Pilot studies and demonstration projects such as clinical or educational interventions,
- Evidence based medicine related to new or updated clinical guidelines,
- Quality improvement activities including team optimization and improving patient outcomes,

And much more! When in doubt, [reach out to us!](#)

ePoster Galleries

Workforce Gallery: Includes research about the PA workforce and professional issues.

Education Gallery: Includes research about PA education/postgraduate programs/doctoral degrees/PA students.

Clinical Gallery: Includes case studies, QI activities, and evidence-based medicine.

Sponsored ePoster: Includes all research that is sponsored by industry/corporations.

FAQ: Themes and Presentation Types

Can I submit an encore presentation?

Encore presentations, or research that has been previously presented at other organizations' meetings, are permissible for the ePoster session but are not eligible for publication in *JAAPA*.

AAPA reserves the right to reject encore presentations if there are more high-quality submissions than there is space for them.

Does my research need to be complete?

Your ongoing research project does not need to be completed by the time of your presentation if you are submitting new primary research. Please indicate that the work is ongoing within the submission portal, include preliminary results, proposed analyses, anticipated findings, and applications for the research.

SUBMISSION DETAILS

Submission Portal

Submit your application through our portal. [Follow this link](#) to apply today!

Deadlines

All submissions must be submitted **no later than January 11, 2026, at 11:59 pm EST**. It is strongly recommended submitting authors begin the submission process prior to the last day of the deadline. You can begin your application, save your progress, and finish later within the submission portal.

If you have any questions, contact us at postersession@aapa.org. Allow up to two business days for a response.

Submitting Author

For clarity and consistency, **please designate just one speaker per ePoster submission and a maximum of two speakers for Research in Action**. To ensure a smooth submission process and accurate display of information, we strongly encourage that the expected speaker serves as the submitting author.

Our platform currently displays only speakers' profiles and headshots. Additional authors are listed in a separate field. If your speaker selection changes after acceptance, simply reach out to us and we'll help update your submission.

Eligibility

Research **must be about the PA profession or PA education or conducted by PAs or PA students**. Submissions from PAs may be considered for ePosters or Research in Action. Research from PA students will be considered for ePosters and Research Rounds only.

In 2026, AAPA will accept submissions for ePosters with industry or medical education company involvement or sponsorship. These submissions will be displayed under the heading of "Sponsored ePosters." Corporate/industry research will only be considered for ePoster Meet the Author Sessions if a PA is directly involved in the research. All other corporate/industry ePosters will be displayed on the ePoster kiosks without other presentation opportunities.

Corporate/industry posters may be published on [AAPA.org](https://aapa.org) along with the other digital ePosters from AAPA 2026, upon payment of a publication fee.

AI Tools

Consistent with International Committee of Medical Journal Editors guidelines, faculty and authors who use AI tools in the creation of education content, including but not limited to proposal, handouts, slides/presentations, references, production of images or graphical elements, or in the collection and analysis of data, must be transparent in disclosing how the AI tool was used and which tool was used. Faculty and authors are fully responsible for the content of their materials, even those parts produced by an AI tool, and are thus liable for any breach of [AAPA's Guidelines for Ethical Conduct](#).

All speakers, panelists, workshop assistants, workshop instructors, and workshop chairs who are PAs **must be current members of AAPA at the time of presentation**.

FAQ: Submission Details

Do you accept industry-sponsored research?

In 2026, AAPA will accept submissions for ePosters with industry or medical education company involvement or sponsorship. These submissions will be displayed under the heading of "Sponsored ePosters." Corporate/industry research will only be considered for ePoster Meet the Author Sessions if a PA is directly involved in the research. All other corporate/industry ePosters will be displayed on the ePoster kiosks without other presentation opportunities.

Corporate/industry posters may be published on [AAPA.org](https://aapa.org) along with the other digital ePosters from AAPA 2025, upon payment of a publication fee.

How many authors can be on a submission?

While up to 10 authors can be included, only the speaker should be designated per submission. Based on system limitations and past experience, we strongly encourage that the expected speaker serves as the submitting author.

Our platform currently displays only speakers' profiles and headshots. Additional authors are listed in a separate field. If your speaker selection changes after acceptance, simply reach out to us and we'll help update your submission.

ePOSTER DETAILS

ePoster Display

ePosters will be **displayed electronically** on a large touchscreen monitor and are available each day of the conference in the ePoster area and on the AAPA app. **No physical posters will be displayed**. Eligible ePosters will also be published online through the AAPA website approximately one month after AAPA 2026.

Please note, we do not allow media to be embedded within the ePosters at this time. You will be given an opportunity to record a presentation which is embedded in your ePoster, which enhances viewers' ePoster experience while on site.

Poster Awards

The **JAAPA Student Poster Award**, furnished by Wolters Kluwer, will be awarded to the top three (3) student posters. Each of the winning posters will receive \$500. Anyone who is a PA student for any time between June 2025 and May 2026 is eligible to submit posters as a student and be considered for the JAAPA Student Poster Award.

The **APPAP Poster Award**, furnished by the Association of Postgraduate PA Programs, is given to the top ePoster submitted by a PA enrolled in a postgraduate program affiliated with APPAP or to a PA student whose ePoster is focused on postgraduate education. Visit [APPAP](#) for more information. The winner receives \$500. **Please note that research from PAs in a professional doctorate program is not eligible for this award.**

ePoster Publication in JAAPA

Clinical research, case studies, and evidence-based medicine are not eligible for publication; all other submissions are eligible. Student research must have a PA on the submission to be considered for publication in JAAPA. JAAPA does not consider industry-sponsored research or encore presentations for publication.

All decisions are made at the discretion of JAAPA and are final. You will hear directly from JAAPA if your ePoster is accepted for publication. Please do not reach out to AAPA for information regarding JAAPA publication.

The poster article typically is published online-only in August. The 2024 and 2025 poster abstract article can be found online [here](#) as well as the collection of ePosters from 2015 to 2023 [here](#).

FAQ: ePoster Details

Can I embed media in my ePoster?

You will be given an opportunity to record a presentation which is embedded in your ePoster, which enhances viewers' ePoster experience while on site. You may not embed video within your ePoster.

Do I need to bring a physical copy of my ePoster?

No. All ePosters are presented on monitors.

OVERVIEW OF INFORMATION NEEDED

The following is a non-exhaustive list of all questions asked. It is designed to allow authors to gather the materials needed prior to submission.

Note: Your submission must be **BLINDED**. This means we should not be able to tell what organization you work for, who you are, who your funder is, etc. If your submission is not blinded, it will not move on to the review process.

We will be collecting the following information **for each author**:

- Name and credentials
- Email
- Title and organization

We will be collecting the following information **for each research submission**:

- **Submission Title**: Full and abbreviated 3-word title
- **Abstract** (500 word limit) consisting of the following sections:
 - Background and purpose or clinical importance,
 - Description and methodology,
 - Results, and
 - Discussion and conclusions
- **Brief description** (300-character limit)
- **Keywords** which are used for searching for ePosters on site
- **References**
- **1 to 2 Learning objectives**: *“At the conclusion of this session, participants should be able to...”*

Once you submit your proposal, you will receive an automated email with a link to make any edits.

All edits must be made by 1/11/2026.

REVIEWS

A team of 2-4 peer reviewers will evaluate each proposal. The **proposals are blinded**: reviewers will not know who authored a submission.

Rate the Quality of the Abstract: Is the work of reasonable quality, relative to the submission type?

Rate the Clarity of Description: Does the description give the attendees a very clear picture of the intended audience and what will be covered during the presentation?

Originality of Proposal: Is this research new? For case studies, is this an unusual case most PAs in a specialty will not see in a given year? For education, is this a new intervention or program? For research, is this a project that hasn't been seen regarding the PA profession or is this an update to outdated research? For demonstration projects and quality improvement activities, is this something new that others would want to implement?

Reviewers may choose to comment on the abstracts they review. If you wish to see the comments, please [reach out to us](#).

HELPFUL RESOURCES

[Digital ePosters from AAPA 2020 to AAPA 2025](#)

[JAAPA Collections](#) and [AAPA 2025 Poster Abstracts](#)

[AAPA 2025 Research in Action and Research Rounds On Demand](#)

[How to Write a Strong Conference Proposal](#)

[From Clinic to Conference: Present Like a Pro](#)

Visit our website for more: <https://www.aapa.org/research/research-resources/>

AAPA Members can join [Huddle's PA Research Discussion Group](#)