2026 ANNUAL CONFERENCE
ABSTRACT SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS & TIPS

The American Pediatric Surgical Nurses Association (APSNA) Program Committee is seeking abstract applications for the APSNA 35th Annual Scientific Conference which will be held April 22-24, 2026.

APSNA would like to invite healthcare professionals involved in innovative projects/case studies/reports or original evidence-based research related to pediatric surgical nursing to submit an abstract for a pre-conference trauma session, poster presentation, general session-workshop, or general session to present at the APSNA 35th Annual Scientific Conference. All submissions undergo blind peer-review by 3 members of the Program Committee.

ABSTRACT submissions should focus on the care of the pediatric surgical patient. If you are involved in a project or have an interest in a particular area, this may be an opportunity to share with your colleagues and perhaps find others to work on a project with you.

The purpose of the conference educational sessions is to present original evidence-based, research findings and/or share new and innovative ideas for successful approaches and clinical application to pediatric surgical nursing and/or related areas. APSNA is proud to provide a forum for members and colleagues to share their ideas and best practices. The findings/outcomes should be factual, unique, current, and appropriate to the APSNA audience.

Below is a list of the types of presentations APSNA seeks for their annual conference.

Types of Presentations/Sessions:

- Pre-Conference Trauma Workshops
- General Sessions – 60 minutes
- General Sessions – 45 minutes
- Round Table Discussions
- Poster Presentations

Submission Deadline: November 6, 2025

INSTRUCTIONS:
1. All are welcome to submit an abstract for the 35th Annual APSNA Scientific Conference. Membership is not required for submission, selection, or presentation.
2. Abstracts are to be completed and submitted online via the APSNA website by the appropriate deadlines. Interested individuals must complete two online forms:
   1. 2026 Abstract Submission Form

2. APSNA Declaration of Financial Relationships Form
3. Only fully completed abstract submissions will be reviewed.
4. All submissions undergo blind peer-review by three members of the APSNA Program Committee.
5. One primary presenter/author should be identified along with all additional presenters/authors. The primary author submits the abstract with the full consent of all co-authors. The primary author will be the contact person for all correspondence and the one invited to present at the event.
6. All material must be the work of authors listed and appropriately referenced. The submitting presenter/author AND co-presenters/authors must provide Declaration of Financial Relationship information and must read and agree to the following policies:
   - Interactions with Industry Policy
   - Copyright Guidelines
   - Conflict of Interest Policy
7. Presentations should be unpublished, original material, not yet presented at any other meeting.
8. Submission of an abstract constitutes a commitment by the author to present a poster/oral session at the 2026 APSNA Annual Scientific Conference, if accepted.
9. Presenters/Authors are responsible for all conference registration fees, travel, lodging, and cost of presentation material development, if applicable.
10. Visit **2026 Conference Abstracts** to submit your abstract in the online portal by November 6, 2025

TIPS TO ENSURE ACCEPTANCE

The current APSNA Call for Abstracts average acceptance rate is 80%. To ensure abstract acceptance:

- **Make sure your abstract includes results.**
  - Whether new findings presented in an abstract are experimental or theoretical, specific results MUST be included.
  - The results, whether experimental or calculated, must be stated in the abstract.
  - You are free to include your latest data in the final poster or slide presentation you present at the meeting, but you must include substantive results in the original abstract.
- Use the **APSNA Presenter Guidelines** or the **APSNA Poster Presenter Guidelines** for content development as a guide.
- **Use the helpful links below.**

GENERAL SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Authors are asked to identify their preferred mode of presentation (pre-conference trauma session, poster presentation, general session-workshop, or general session). The Program Committee reserves the right to offer an alternative type of presentation to meet the needs of the conference program. Please do not submit the same abstract/presentation for multiple modes of presentation.

- Authors are asked to check accuracy of spelling, grammar, and punctuation. Your poster/oral presentation abstract will appear in print exactly as you submit it; thus, any errors, misspellings, incorrect hyphenations, or deviations from good grammatical usage will appear in the published abstract.
- When using abbreviations, spell out in full the first mention, followed by the abbreviation in parentheses.
- We highly suggest preparing responses to all of the abstract questions prior to entering the submission portal.
- It is recommended that you save and print your abstract submission for future reference prior to submitting it to APSNA. Your presentation/poster objectives will need to match your abstract submission exactly.
- Industry representatives (i.e., from device/pharmaceutical/food company) may submit an abstract. However, if selected to present, contact hours may not be provided for the session.
- All authors must complete a declaration of financial interests/relationships form.
- Presenters are responsible for all conference fees, travel, lodging, and cost of presentation material development.
- Secondary Authors
  - For purposes of APSNA Annual Scientific Conference planning, secondary presenters/authors are defined as someone who has contributed substantial work to the development of the abstract, poster, and/or presentation.
  - Secondary presenters/authors are identified on the poster, PowerPoint presentation and in the conference brochure and conference materials pages.
  - Acknowledgement of other contributors to the project or research can be identified on the poster in a separate acknowledgement section, and on an acknowledgement slide during the PowerPoint presentation.
  - The primary author is the contact person for all correspondence and the one invited to present at the event.
  - Identified Secondary Authors must submit a CV and complete a Declaration of Financial Relationships form.
  - No changes of authorship will be permitted once an abstract is accepted and a contract is signed.
- If you do not receive an email confirmation within 24 hours after submitting your abstract, it is your responsibility to contact **APSNA** to make sure we have received your

submission.

HELPFUL LINKS:

1. **How to Develop an Award Winning Abstract:**
    1. Writing a Conference Abstract
    2. Useful Guide on How to Write Abstracts and Objectives (2019)
2. **Creating Excellent Learning Objectives:**
    1. APSNA's Developing Learning Objectives Tool
    2. NAPNAP Guidelines for Continuing Education
3. **APSNA's Abstract Evaluation Criteria (Use these to frame your abstract):**
    1. APSNA Abstract Evaluation Rubric – Original Research
       https://www.apsna.org/page/2025AbstEvalCrit
    2. APSNA Abstract Evaluation Rubric – Case Study/EBP/QI
       https://www.apsna.org/page/2025AbstEvalCriteria
    3. SAMPLE ABSTRACT
4. **Designing Scientific Posters**
    1. APSNA Poster Presenter Guidelines
    2. APSNA Sample Poster
    3. Creating Effective Poster Presentations
    4. Poster Template Samples
       Template #1
       Template #2
5. **Reference style**: APA Reference Style is to be used in text and in the reference list. Useful resources for reference listing can be accessed here:
    - **http://www.apastyle.org/**
    - **https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01**
    - **http://libguides.gwumc.edu/c.php?g=27779&p=170351** (This site also provides useful sites to obtain online images. Please remember to always follow guidelines for citing images).
    - Helpful Primer for APA Style
6. **Copyright Information Resources**
    1. https://www.copyrightlaws.com/legally-using-images-presentation-slides/
    2. https://libraries.dal.ca/services/copyright-office/for-faculty/copyright-and-conference-presentations.html
    3. https://www.thinkoutsidetheslide.com/overview-of-using-copyrighted-material-in-your-presentation/
    4. https://www.brownwinick.com/insights/dont-be-in-the-wrong-how-to-avoid-copyright-infringement
    5. Useful Guide on Copyright and Plagiarism (2019)

MENTORING

MENTORING is available for abstract authors upon request. If you are interested, please contact the APSNA office.