

Abstract Submission Guidelines

2026 ANNUAL MEETING

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HOSTED BY ASCP AND
THE CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF PATHOLOGISTS (CAP-ACP)

SUBMISSION DEADLINE:

11:59pm ET
Monday, April 10, 2026

AUTHOR NOTIFICATION OF ACCEPTANCE OR REJECTION:

July 2026

GENERAL GUIDELINES

- Submissions cannot have been presented, published, or submitted for presentation or publication elsewhere.
- All abstracts must be submitted electronically. Late abstracts, or those received by any means other than the 2026 Annual Meeting abstract submission website, will not be reviewed.
- Abstracts must be submitted in English. Submitting an abstract does NOT guarantee its acceptance at the 2026 Annual Meeting, hosted by ASCP and the Canadian Association of Pathologists (CAP-ACP). Notification of final abstract status will be sent to the main author and/or submitting author of each abstract.
- When submitting multiple authors for an abstract, ensure all authors are listed properly and in the correct order for publication.
- Use of AI tools is permitted but must be thoroughly disclosed in the abstract submission. See submission guidelines for more details.
- All accepted posters will require a live poster presenter(s) at the 2026 Annual Meeting as well as posting a virtual poster. (Further instructions to be shared at a later date.)
- Particular attention should be given to products or equipment bearing registered trade names. Provide the company name and its city and state address parenthetically following the first mention of the product.
- Authors whose abstract is chosen MUST register and attend the meeting.
- If you are unable to attend the 2026 Annual Meeting live and/or would like to withdraw your abstract, withdrawal must be done by 8/15/2026.
- References should not be used.
- No changes will be made to abstracts once the submission period ends.

Abstract Submission Guidelines

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PREPARATION GUIDELINES

Abstracts may be submitted in any ONE of seven properties:

- Educational Practice
- Test Utilization
- Clinical Practice
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
- Lab Practice
- Basic Scientific
- Case Study

EDUCATIONAL PRACTICE ABSTRACT

A summary presentation describing a strategy, technique, or novel format for producing, presenting, or disseminating education for pathology or laboratory medicine in a conference, medical school, undergraduate or post-graduate clinical training setting. Educational Practice abstracts should include these components: Title, Introduction, Methods, and Conclusions (which may also include results).

LAB PRACTICE ABSTRACT

A summary presentation describing a laboratory problem and the means used to resolve that problem for enhancing data quality, lab process or efficiency, improving planning or practice management, incorporating new techniques and technologies, globalizing healthcare, enhancing professional development and/or certification support, improving patient care, improving care team integration, etc. Lab Practice abstracts should include these components: Title, Introduction, Methods, and Conclusions (which may also include results).

TEST UTILIZATION ABSTRACT

A summary presentation describing effective test utilization, which may include areas such as laboratory stewardship, Choosing Wisely, improving quality and safety of healthcare, as well as diagnostic accuracy and care coordination, et al. Test Utilization abstracts should include these components: Title, Introduction, Methods, and Conclusions.

BASIC SCIENTIFIC ABSTRACT

A synopsis of a formal experiment (e.g.: done in animal models, cell lines or in silico) following standard scientific method that includes conveying the objectives of the experiment as well as the hypothesis, methods, results, and conclusions related to the study. Scientific abstracts should include these components: Title, Introduction, Methods, Results, and Conclusions.

CLINICAL PRACTICE ABSTRACT

A synopsis of formal studies done in human subjects/human tissue, or completed via observational analysis (e.g., laboratory data or chart review), survey, or clinical trial that conveys the objectives/hypothesis of the study, methods, results, and conclusions. Single case reports should not be submitted via this pathway, but case series are acceptable. Clinical practice abstracts should include these components: Title, Introduction, Methods, Results, and Conclusions.

CASE STUDY ABSTRACT

A synopsis of a single case study that conveys the objectives/hypothesis of the study, methods, results, and conclusions. Case study abstracts should include these components: Title, Introduction, Methods (case report), and Conclusions with an emphasis on quality of work up and presentation and impact on the practice of pathology and laboratory medicine.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION ABSTRACT

A summary presentation describing a strategy, initiative, or innovative process that leverages pathology and laboratory medicine resources (e.g., personnel, data, testing practices, laboratory operations) to advance diversity, equity, and inclusion across any aspect of healthcare. These initiatives may focus on, but are not limited to, education, partnerships, awareness, advocacy, interventions, or mentorships. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion abstracts should include these components: Title, Introduction, Methods, and Conclusions (which may also include results and future indications).

NOTE: All abstracts accepted for presentation at the 2026 Annual Meeting must present live in Montreal QC, Canada.

A select group of posters will also be nominated by the Abstract Review Group for oral presentation via a special oral platform session.

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STRUCTURE

These guidelines apply to all abstract formats. Abstracts that do not conform to all stated specifications will be disqualified. It is important to note that abstracts will NOT be edited by ASCP prior to review or on-line publication. Please take the time to correctly edit your proposal prior to submitting.

The **abstract** should be a single paragraph of text no more than 200 words. This count does not include title and author identification information. Charts, figures, or tables should not be used in the abstract text. These items are allowable in the board poster and digital file presentation of the abstract.

The **Title** should accurately describe the questions answered or problem to be addressed by the study. Vague, general titles should be avoided. Do not use abbreviations in the title.

The **Introduction** should clearly characterize the scientific question investigated or, in the case of lab practice or educational practice abstracts, the problem, dilemma or case to be addressed. Background information should be provided to the extent that it introduces the current study and documents its importance to the literature.

Methods used in the study should be briefly explained in this section. For example, with scientific abstracts, what essential reagents were used, what patients or tissue samples were studied, what special techniques were applied and how, and what type of study was performed (e.g., prospective, retrospective, case-control.) General reagents (e.g., buffers, deionized water) need not be included if they are not unique to the work.

With lab practice or educational practice abstracts, the methods should explain the strategy or resolution employed to resolve the issue.

With case study submissions, the methods should be the case report.

For all abstract presentation formats, demonstrate how the methods presented will address the questions in the introduction section. The number of patients, cases, or samples studied should be included in this section. Identify the control group selected and those conditions that would exclude cases from the study. All data must be presented in text format. No charts, figures, or tables should be used.

Use of AI at any point during the research and writing process should be disclosed in the Methods section, including conceptualization, data collection, processing, writing, language editing.

Results are required for research focused abstracts but may also be included as part of the Conclusions section in Lab Practice or Educational Practice abstracts. Results of significant positive and negative findings should be presented as concisely as possible. Most abstracts are rejected because of inadequate data. To state “results will be presented” is uninformative and of little value. Make sure any conclusions you reach are supported by the data presented. When expressing laboratory values, use conventional units followed by SI units in parentheses. All data must be presented in a text format. No charts, figures, or tables will be accepted.

With case study submission, add n/a to the results space.

Conclusions should be stated concisely and include any recommendations for future study as well as the implications and significance of the data or study presented. Do not introduce concepts not considered in the body of the abstract.

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AWARDS COMPETITIONS

ASCP sponsors several best poster awards competitions open to accepted abstracts. This year's poster competitions feature:

BEST LAB PRACTICE POSTER

Open to all accepted abstracts submitted in the property of Lab Practice

BEST EDUCATIONAL PRACTICE POSTER

Open to all accepted abstracts submitted in the property of Educational Practice.

BEST CLINICAL PRACTICE POSTER

Open to all accepted abstracts submitted in the property of Clinical Practice.

BEST TEST UTILIZATION POSTER

Open to all accepted abstracts submitted in the property of Test Utilization.

BEST CASE STUDY

Open to all accepted abstracts submitted in the property of Case Study.

BEST BASIC SCIENTIFIC POSTER

Open to all accepted abstracts submitted in the property of Basic Scientific.

BEST DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION POSTER

Open to all accepted abstracts submitted in the property of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

BEST RESIDENT/FELLOW POSTER

Open to all accepted abstracts submitted by a primary author who is a resident/fellow (or who was in a training program at the time the research or study was performed).

BEST INTERNATIONAL POSTER

Open to all accepted abstracts that were submitted by a primary author whose scientific research or lab practice study for the abstract was completed outside the United States and Canada.

BEST ORAL POSTER

Open to all finalists selected for the oral platform session.

BEST LAB PROFESSIONAL POSTER

Open to all accepted abstracts submitted by a primary author who is a lab professional.

ATTENDEE FAVORITE

Open to all accepted posters, voted on by your peers.

The program committee will select a group of finalists from all abstract submissions eligible for each competition. Finalists in all competitions will be judged by appointed experts. Winners of all best poster competitions will be announced and celebrated near the end of the 2026 Annual Meeting.

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SELECTION CRITERIA

All submitted abstracts will be peer reviewed. The Abstract Review Group uses these criteria for grading all abstracts regardless of the presentation format in which they are submitted (i.e., either scientific, lab practice, or educational practice):

- **Originality:** Uniqueness or creativity of the concept presented
- **Potential Importance:** Relevance to the field (either currently or potential future relevance), potential usefulness to the practitioner, lab professional, or learner
- **Research Design or Implementation:** For scientific abstracts, appropriate study numbers and/ or subjects, appropriate control population, appropriate use of statistics, etc; for lab practice or educational practice abstracts, clarity in presenting the material, historical relevance, quality of case management and follow up, etc.
- **Interpretations and/or Conclusions:** Interpretation of present or past findings, concise and clear summary of key points, connection between the conclusion and the hypothesis, etc.

The number of abstracts to be accepted is not predetermined before the reviewers have made their recommendations. Theoretically, all abstracts submitted could be accepted for presentation.

ACCEPTANCE

Abstracts that are of general interest to the attendees of the ASCP/CAP-ACP Joint Annual Meetings and respective memberships are accepted on the basis of quality, as determined by the Abstract Review Group with expertise in the area in which an abstract is submitted.

Onsite at the 2026 Annual Meeting, a presenting author must be present at his/her poster for the entire time block of the assigned poster session. Some posters will also be selected for oral presentation via a special platform poster session. Failure to be present or display an accepted poster at the assigned poster session may forfeit the rights of the primary presenter to participate in poster sessions at future annual meetings.

Submission of an abstract for consideration constitutes the granting of permission to the American Society for Clinical Pathology to post the abstract in electronic format on the Society's Website and/or any of its subsidiary websites for purposes of previewing the abstracts accepted for meeting presentation. All accepted abstracts will be published in citable form.

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GUIDELINES FOR THE USE OF AI

The use of AI (for example, to help generate content or images, write code, process data, or for translation) should be disclosed in the abstract submission and described in the methodology section of the abstract. Natural language processing tools driven by artificial intelligence (AI) do not qualify as authors, and all abstract co-authors are ultimately responsible and accountable for the contents of any AI outputs included in the work. Please see the [COPE position statement on Authorship and AI](#) for more details.

PUBLICATION OF ABSTRACTS IN AMERICAN JOURNAL OF CLINICAL PATHOLOGY

All abstracts accepted for presentation at the 2026 Annual Meeting will be published in an online-only supplement of American Journal of Clinical Pathology. The supplement will be released prior to the first day of the 2026 Annual Meeting.

EMBARGO POLICY

Unless otherwise noted, all abstracts accepted for presentation at the 2026 Annual Meeting are embargoed from submission until the publication of the online-only abstract supplement in AJCP. All oral presentations are embargoed from submission until the date and time of the poster presentation at the Annual Meeting. We reserve the right to lift the embargo on specific abstracts that are selected for promotion prior to or during its Annual Meeting.

CONFLICT-OF-INTEREST DISCLOSURE POLICY

ASCP is committed to ensuring the integrity of its scientific, educational, and research programs. Abstract submission requires disclosure of any financial or other industry interests for all co-authors that might be construed as resulting in an actual, potential, or apparent conflict. Disclosed information may include, but is not limited to:

- Employment (current or ended)
- Consultancy, including paid expert testimony
- Equity holder in publicly traded company
- Equity holder in privately-held company (excluding stock options, or indirect investments through mutual funds and the like) in a publicly traded company
- Holder of stock options in a privately held company
- Research or clinical trial funding or other support (including grants received by the author's institution)
- Honoraria directly received from an entity
- Patents and royalties

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ELECTRONIC SIGNATURE AND COPYRIGHT TRANSFER

Submission of an abstract via the online abstract submission system certifies the ASCP abstract submitter's understanding of the rules for participation contained in the online abstract submission program and affirms that:

1. All authors approve of submitting this work for presentation and publication. The author listing on submitted abstracts and presentations reflects the people who did the research or contributed substantially to the design of the study or to the interpretation of the results, and who were involved in the development of the presentation and who are willing to take responsibility for the findings.
2. The author(s) transfer(s) all copyright ownership of the named abstract to the American Society for Clinical Pathology (except when one or more authors are U.S. Government employees).
3. All authors have read the *Conflict-of-Interest Disclosure Policy and Guidelines for the Use of AI* have included the information required by these policies in the abstract submission.
4. The presenting author or other designated will be available to present the abstract in person if selected for the program. The author(s) will immediately notify Jill Payne if the presenting author must be changed.
5. The data in the abstract have not been accepted for publication before the abstract submission closing date; nor will they be materially presented at a meeting before the 2026 Annual Meeting.
6. The author(s) are aware that the withdrawal deadline for the 2026 Annual Meeting abstracts is 8/15/2026, and understand that abstracts cannot be withdrawn after this date.