

Guidelines for Submission and Abstracts/Proposals

We invite you to submit your work to **2025 International Conference on Communication in Healthcare**. The following guidelines will help you through the submission process for each category of submission: scientific abstracts, workshops, symposia, and creative arts.

We welcome submissions related to communication and relationships in healthcare, including all health-related disciplines and health professions (nurses, physicians, pharmacists, social workers, therapists, counselors, community health workers, patients, social scientists, etc.). Presentations will be organized around the topic areas. When submitting your abstract or proposal, you will be asked to identify a corresponding **primary theme** and secondary theme (if relevant) to facilitate organization of presentations.

Teaching and Assessment of Learners in Health Professions:

This can include training, assessment, and evaluation of students, trainees, or health professionals at any stage of career in either the practice or education setting.

- Assessing/evaluating clinical communication skills
- Assessing/evaluating communication education methods
- Novel approaches to teaching communication (e.g., simulations, remote learning)

Clinician/Healthcare Professional-Patient Interactions

- Patient and person-centered communication
- Sharing medical information
- Gathering information / clinical reasoning
- Communication about risk and uncertainty
- Patients expressing emotions / cues and concerns
- Responding to patient emotions / empathy
- Triadic communication
- Patient and caregiver evaluation of care
- Interaction between healthcare communication and mental health
- Communication with specific groups (e.g. age, culture, gender, race, dentistry, veterinary medicine, etc.)
- Non-verbal communication

Shared Decision Making & Involvement of Patients and Caregivers

- Concept and measurement
- Occurrence, determinants, outcomes
- Decision support / tools
- Implementation of shared decision-making interventions
- Caregiver involvement & perspective
- Patient education/self-management
- Patient empowerment

Intervention Research: *This can include development, implementation, and evaluation of communication interventions. Interventions related to shared decision making or health literacy should be submitted to those categories.*

- Intervention testing
- Implementation / de-implementation research

Health Policy: *This includes work related to health policy issues, including evidence-based policy development and evaluation, science communication, and organizational change development.*

Research Methodology: *This includes work that is primarily focused on methodological issues, such as development and validation of new instruments, innovative study designs or methodologies, and systematic reviews.*

- Development and validation of measurement instruments
- Innovative research methodologies

Health Literacy: *This includes work related to health literacy, numeracy, infographics, pictographics, etc.*

- Concept and measurement of health literacy
- Occurrence, determinants, outcomes
- Implementation of health literacy interventions

Health Equity & Health Disparities

- Language discordant care & interpreters
- Cross-cultural communication
- Communication with underserved populations
- Communication related to bias and discrimination

Health Information Technology: *This includes work related to artificial intelligence, natural language processing, digital health, eHealth, mHealth, telehealth, and patient portals. Submit health technology teaching abstracts to “novel approaches to teaching communication (e.g. simulations, remote learning)” under Teaching/Assessment of Learners in Health Professions.*

- Social media & Internet
- Artificial intelligence
- Telemedicine (incl. e-consultations, e-communications, patient portals, etc.)

Special Topics in Healthcare Communication: *If you have a specific topic that doesn't fit into other categories, you can submit here.*

- Health promotion/prevention
- Chronic illness and multi-morbidity
- Palliative/end of life care
- Ethics
- Communication during pandemics
- Population-level communication
- Misinformation/Disinformation
- Quality improvement and patient safety

Workforce and Work Environment: *This includes work related to inter-/intra-disciplinary communication, team-based care, workforce issues, and cultural humility and sensitivity in healthcare.*

- Inter-/intra-disciplinary communication
- Cultural humility and sensitivity in healthcare
- Addressing workforce challenges

All submissions must adhere to the following:

- Text may be **no longer than 350 words**
- The abstract/proposal should be written in **English**
- If a table, figure or image is used, limit it to **only one table or figure**
- **Single line spacing** should be used throughout the document
- **Do not use all uppercase (CAPITAL)** letters in the text or title, or when entering author names
- All submissions must be entered **electronically** using the following website:
[LINK TO SUBMISSION SITE]

Abstract submissions will be scored by at least 2 peer reviewers. Scores and comments are submitted to the Scientific Committee, who will select final presentations for the program. Scoring will be based on impact/significance, appropriateness and quality of methods, innovation, and clarity of writing. Notification of acceptance will be sent in early-June 2025.

Specific guidelines for different presentation types - scientific abstracts, workshops, symposia, and creative arts - are provided below. Please review the description of each type of presentation to best determine the type you select for consideration when submitting.

SCIENTIFIC ABSTRACTS

Scientific abstracts describe research or teaching projects, innovations in policy or practice related to communication, or relationships in healthcare. Teaching abstracts may describe novel curricula, teaching or evaluation strategies, or instructional materials. Research abstracts can describe findings of completed projects, preliminary findings, or research in progress. Please note that while it is acceptable to submit abstracts that do not yet have results available, a lack of results limits the ability of reviewers to fully assess the impact/significance of the work, and such submissions are likely to receive lower scores.

Research in Progress Subcategory: One exception relates to the abstract submission category for Research in Progress for Junior Faculty and Trainees. These presentations will be limited to presenting authors who are in training (e.g., graduate students, fellows, post-doctoral students) or junior faculty within 5 years of their terminal degree. This subcategory is intended to provide a forum for young scholars to obtain feedback and critique on ongoing or planned research projects, which may not have results available. Presenters will be asked to identify in advance what area(s) of their project they would like to receive feedback on. We expect up to two sessions will be scheduled for this format and hope to accommodate 10-15 Research in Progress presentations.

Scientific abstracts should be structured using headings according to the type of project:

Research

- Introduction/Objectives
- Methods
- Results
- Discussion/Implications

Innovation in Policy or Practice

- Introduction/context
- Description of policy or practice innovation
- Evaluation/impact
- Discussion/implications

Teaching

- Introduction/Context
- Educational objectives
- Instructional and/or Assessment Methods
- Program evaluation results
- Discussion/Implications

Scientific abstracts will be presented as either oral presentation or poster. You will be asked to specify your preference for your abstract as oral, poster or either. The review committee will make the final choice of presentation format for accepted abstracts.

Oral Presentation: Accepted oral presentations will be grouped into 90-minute sessions based on topics/themes. Unless you are notified otherwise, oral presentations will be 15 minutes, divided into a 10-minute presentation with 5 minutes for questions and comments. A moderator will facilitate each session. Research in Progress presentations will be 15 minutes, divided into 5-7 minutes for presentation and 8-10 minutes for discussion and audience feedback. Laptops and LCD projectors will be available to support PowerPoint presentations.

Poster Presentation: Poster sessions are designed for focused interaction between presenters and other delegates. All posters will be presented during designated session(s). While you are encouraged to view other posters during the session, we request that at least one author staff your poster for most of the session, so that you can interact with ICCH attendees visiting your poster.

Awards: 2025 ICCH will feature oral abstract and poster awards. Onsite judges will determine the winners.

WORKSHOPS

Workshops are interactive, experiential educational sessions that actively engage participants in a topic related to either healthcare communication or relationships in healthcare. Workshops may focus on research methods, teaching strategies, skill building, or professional or personal development (e.g., mentoring, mindfulness). Workshop submissions are limited to one document with a maximum of 350 words and should be structured as follows:

- Title
- Background/purpose of the workshop
- Learning objectives
- Teaching methods (to include a *description* of workshop activities and time allocation for each activity) - specify how they will be interactive
- Teaching materials - *a list and brief description* (e.g., worksheets, writing prompts, facilitation guides, film clips, slides, annotated bibliography, etc.)
- Evaluation Description (i.e., how you will reflect on what participants gained)

Workshops will run for 90 minutes. *They must be interactive with active participation*, meaning workshop participants should be expected to actively contribute and have the opportunity to practice ideas or skills within the workshop. Didactic portions of the workshop should be limited. Workshops should promote experiential learning through application, practice, feedback and peer interaction. Proposals should articulate group activities, materials used (including handouts, worksheets or other materials) to engage participants and enable them to apply the skills acquired in the workshop in their own institutions. Workshop proposals should also include descriptions of plans to incorporate evaluation of outcomes for participants, such as verbal or written reflection, completion of worksheets or plans to apply new skills.

Workshops will be evaluated according to:

- relevance and importance to research and/or teaching in the area of healthcare communication (personal or professional development workshops should make a link to how workshop participation may help individuals carry out their teaching/research roles in healthcare communication);
- clarity of learning objectives and writing;
- emphasis on activities to promote active participant engagement;
- sequence of timeline and feasibility;
- teaching materials;
- plan for reflection on what participants will gain.

Laptops and LCD projectors will be available to support PowerPoint presentations.

SYMPOSIA

Symposia are designed to capture a coherent set of three to five individual presentations that center on one theme. An important asset of a symposium is that it places individual experiences or research results in a broader context and allows time for interaction between the presenters and discussion among the group. The person who submits the symposium proposal should consider inviting colleagues from different countries to provide an international

perspective. Laptops and LCD projectors will be available to support PowerPoint presentations. The symposium abstract should be submitted as one single abstract for the whole symposium and should include:

- Introduction/context
- Description of individual presentations
- Discussion/implications

Each symposium will be 90-minutes long. Scoring of symposium submissions will be based on criteria similar to those for scientific abstracts.

CREATIVE ARTS

Similar to Fringe theater festivals throughout the world that emphasize experimental and creative performances, the Creative Arts sessions at ICCH use inventive, playful, and artistic methods of healthcare communication. The creative arts are a particularly suitable subject for exploring health communication because it provides an opportunity to see something differently - a new and possibly provocative approach to the intersections between healthcare and communication.

There is no prescribed format, and presenters may use their presentation time in whatever way they wish as long as the emphasis focuses on creativity, performance, and/or audience engagement. We encourage submissions that have a relationship to patient-provider communication and clinical or therapeutic relationships. When submitting, please select the category you feel best represents your work.

Creative Arts submissions can be of two major types:

- **Visual Arts**
 - Photography, paintings, small 3-dimensional objects, or other similar mediums
 - Note that for accepted visual arts items, security of the item on-site, shipping expenses, as well as display set-up materials will be the responsibility of the presenter
- **Performance Arts**
 - Personal reflections, stories of one's own or others' experiences of health or illness narratives, short theatrical performances, innovative interactive exercises, poetry, puppetry, music, dance or dramatic representations of dialogues or experiences

Creative Arts are limited to one submission with a maximum of 350 words. The submission should address the following:

- Background/Purpose of creative presentation
- Has the piece been performed/presented before?
- Provide a brief description of background with creative arts
- State the relevance of the creative piece with health, healthcare, systems of care, or relationships.
- Additional Items for Performing Arts
 - Length of the session requested
 - Either 15 or 30 minutes (default time is 15 minutes) - for a 30-minute slot, the submission should provide justification/clear rationale for how the time will be used
 - A schedule of how the time will be used
 - Outline participant engagement

The ability to attach a table, figure or image is available, in addition to the submission document.

Creative arts submissions will be evaluated according to Creativity, Novelty, Impact, and Relevance to the audience.