APIC 2020
JUNE 10-12 • PHOENIX, AZ

CALL FOR SPEAKERS
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June 10-12 in Phoenix

Call for Abstracts

The APIC 2020 Annual Conference Committee (ACC) invites you to submit abstracts in the areas of infection prevention and control, healthcare epidemiology, and related fields for presentation at the APIC 2020 Annual Conference. Abstracts are peer-reviewed for quality of research, educational or scientific content, logical presentation, and impact on infection prevention, healthcare, epidemiology and related fields. Accepted abstracts are scheduled as either poster or oral presentations based on quality of work and anticipated interest by attendees. By submitting an abstract, the author(s) acknowledges that the abstract has not been previously published in another copyrighted journal or presented at another national or international meeting and agrees that the abstract will be presented as scheduled, if accepted.

How to Submit

To submit an abstract, go to the APIC 2020 Call for Abstracts to complete the online form. You may begin the submission process and return to your saved proposal any time up until the submission deadline. Step-by-step instructions and help are available during the online submission process. Abstracts may be rejected if the online submission procedures are not followed. **All proposals must be submitted online; proposals submitted by fax or mail will not be accepted.**

The submitting author must provide a valid e-mail address, as APIC will rely exclusively on e-mail communications related to abstract submission, disposition, and presentation. It is the responsibility of the submitting author to contact APIC in the event of failure to receive e-mail communication and to relay all correspondence about the abstract(s) to all co-author(s). Please check your bulk/junk mail folders to ensure e-mails from APIC and or Cadmium are not being filtered out of your inbox.

Schedule

10/18/2019	Call for Abstracts submission site opens
12/16/2019	Submission deadline for abstracts (11:59 pm PST). **No extensions will be granted**.
2/27-3/6/2020	Acceptance/Rejection notifications
6/10/-6/12/2020	Conference Dates - Phoenix Convention Center, Phoenix, AZ

All applications must be received no later than 11:59 p.m. PST Monday, December 16, 2019. Incomplete applications will not be considered for acceptance to APIC 2020. Submitters are encouraged to allow several days before the submission deadline to resolve questions or problems with the online submission process.

Requirements

1. The abstract will not be published or presented at any national or international conference (e.g. IDSA, SHEA, ASTMH, ICAAC) or educational event prior to June 10, 2020. Do not list facility based, regional, or local chapter events. *Abstracts that have been previously presented but include updated information with significant new implications may be considered.

2. Abstract review is a blinded process. DO NOT identify author(s) or facility.

3. Financial and conflict of interest disclosures must be completed.

4. Abstracts must be written in complete sentences in a narrative format of 300 words or less.

5. Do not include bulleted lists, tables or figures.

6. Proofread the abstract for typographical and grammatical errors. Use a grammar and/or spell check.

7. Submissions must be written in English. Authors for whom English is not the primary or first language should have their abstracts carefully reviewed for spelling, grammar, and accuracy

8. All acronyms must be spelled out at first use (even those considered common, such as ICU). Acronyms used in the title are acceptable but require definition upon first use in the abstract.

9. Abstracts cannot be used to market products.

10. Abstracts must not contain any brand names, commercial influence or promotional material.

11. The abstract must be based on complete data and not left open to future data collection or speculation.

12. One (1) accepted abstract author must be registered and present (oral or poster) on the scheduled date and time of presentation.

Subject Category

The submitting author must select the most appropriate subject category from the list below. The Abstract Sub-Committee reserves the right to change the "Subject Category" if the committee feels the abstract would be more appropriate in a different category other than that selected by the submitter.

- Antimicrobial Stewardship, Resistance and Emerging Pathogens
- Antisepsis, Disinfection and Sterilization
- Education, Training and Competencies
- Environment of Care, Construction and Remediation
- Healthcare Worker Safety and Occupational Health
- Implementation Science and Research
- Leadership and Professional Development
- Outbreak Investigation, Public Health and Health Policy
- Quality Assurance and Performance Improvement
- Surveillance and Technology

Author(s)

APIC will correspond via e-mail with the submitting author only. It is the responsibility of the submitting author to contact APIC in the event that e-mail communication about the abstract's disposition is not received by March 6, 2020. The submitting author is also required to relay all correspondence including abstract dispositions to all co-authors.

Title (Word Limit is: 20 Words)

Use a concise title that describes the content of the abstract. Spell out genus and species names of microorganisms. Do not use organizational or industry names. Examples: "Survey of 229 Japanese Hospitals to Assess Sharps Injury Prevention Programs and Organizational Capacity for Healthcare Worker Safety" or "The Role of Colonization Pressure in Transmission of Methicillin-Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*."

Abstract Body

The body of the abstract (not including the title and author listing) may contain up to **300 words** (not including spaces). All acronyms and/or abbreviations are spelled out or defined at first use, even those considered common by the submitters (i.e. ICU). Acronyms used in the title are acceptable as long as they are spelled out or defined upon first use in the proposal description. The body of the abstract must be typed directly into the online submission form. Proposal is written in complete sentences. No bulleted lists, tables or figures.

Abstract Format and Template Suggestions
Abstracts must use a traditional four-section format as follows:

Title: Use a concise title that describes the content of the abstract.
1. Acronyms used in the title are acceptable as long as they are spelled out or defined upon first use in the abstract description. Many authors construct their title in one of two ways (not necessary, but suggested);
    a. Indicate the research question, e.g. "What is the impact of antibiotic use on the incidence of carbapenem-resistant Enterobacteriaceae?"
                            OR
    b. Answer the research question: e.g. "Increased antibiotic exposure is associated with increased incidence of carbapenem-resistant Enterobacteriaceae."

Background: Provide a brief background and include at least three clear learning objectives, hypothesis tested, and/or problem addressed.
1. This section should be written in present tense and answers the question: What is the importance of this study?
2. A traditional format includes the following:
    a. Describe the importance of the field (1 sentence)
    b. Define and indicate the problem (1 sentence)
    c. Outline the research question and objective / problem (1 sentence)

Methods: Describe study design, including setting, sample, sample size, subjects, intervention, and/or type of statistical analysis.

1. This section should be written in past tense.
2. A traditional format includes the following:
   a. Indicate the study design, subjects, and time-frame (1 sentence)
   b. Outline the study variables – Provide predictor outcome and confounding variables (1 sentence)
   c. Define the statistical analysis – Include the name(s) of the statistical test(s), and cutoff for statistical significance (if inferential statistics are used) (1 sentence).
3. **Do not** include any numbers outside of time frame or the number of facilities (if a multicenter study) in this section. Reserve **all** numbers for **results.**

Results: Summarize essential results as clearly as possible with appropriate statistical analysis.

1. This section should be written in past tense.
2. Ensure the following:
   a. Each result has a method included in the methods section.
   b. Each method outlined in the methods section has a corresponding result in the results section.
3. If you have too many results, you need to limit the methods provided in the abstract. You can have more methods in the poster than you do in the abstract. Just provide the primary result or the most important result in the abstract.
4. The results should be described in the same order as the methods described in the methods section.

Conclusion: Interpret the study findings. Conclusions must be supported by the results. Concisely summarize implications of the results.

1. This section should be written in present tense.
2. This section answers the question: "So what?"
3. A traditional format includes the following:
   a. Answer to the research question (e.g. reiterate the primary result: This study found that…) (1 sentence)
   b. Describe the implications of the results to overall practice (1-2 sentences)
4. Do not state "Future studies are needed" or "A randomized trial is needed" - the goal is to provide implications in this section. More studies are always needed.
5. Ensure all conclusions are supported by the results.

Awards

- **New Investigator Award:** The New Investigator Award encourages research by APIC members by recognizing outstanding scientific research by an APIC member presenting for the first time at the APIC Annual Conference. To be considered for the New Investigator Award, applicants must submit an abstract and must: 1) be a current APIC member 2) be a first-time, first author presenting a scientific paper in either an oral or poster session; 3) indicate they are applying for the New Investigator Award during the abstract submission process by clicking the check box labeled "New Investigator Award" and 4) follow abstract submission rules.   This is a one-time award, and winners may not apply for this award in the future. However, other individuals from the same institution are eligible to apply for their scientific research. *(Award Prize: $1,500)*

- **Best International Abstract Award:** This award is presented each year for an abstract submitted by a presenter from outside the United States that demonstrate exemplary scientific merit and are of high interest and relevance to the infection control community**. To be considered for this award, applicants must meet the following requirements: 1) the applicant resides outside the United States; 2) the research was conducted outside the United States; 3) the applicant is able to present the abstract at the APIC Annual Conference and 4) abstract submission rules have been followed. *(Award Prize: $1,000)*

- **William A. Rutala Research Award:** This is given in the name of William A. Rutala, PhD, MPH, for the best abstract on the subject of disinfection, sterilization, or antisepsis. To be considered for this award, applicants may not have received the award within the last 3 years. The abstract must be: 1) submitted in the Antisepsis/Disinfection/Sterilization category, 2) written in a clear, logical and concise manner which communicates the principal background, methods, results and conclusions in a straightforward fashion; 3) be innovative, employing sound methodology, and representing a potentially significant, scientific contribution to the principles and practices of disinfection, sterilization or antisepsis and 4) abstract submission rules have been followed. *(Award Prize: $1,000)*

- **Blue Ribbon Abstract Award:** The Blue Ribbon Awards are given to a limited number of abstracts considered by the Abstract Selection Sub-Committee to be of exemplary scientific and/or educational quality. Among the criteria considered by the committee in awarding Blue Ribbons are the following; 1) the abstract is presented in a clear, logical and concise format and communicates the major ideas of the work in a straightforward fashion; 2) if scientific research findings are presented, the abstract demonstrates a high quality of research design and methodology and includes sufficient data to support the conclusions; and 3) abstract submission rules have been followed. *(Award Prize: $1,500)*

- **Implementation Science Award:** This award is presented each year for an abstract submitted by a presenter which is innovative, employs sound methodology, and represents a potentially significant contribution to the principles and practices of infection prevention. To be considered for this award, applicants must meet the following requirements: 1) a current APIC member; 2) the abstract is presented in a clear, logical and concise format and communicates the major ideas of the work in a straightforward fashion; 4) abstract is innovative, employs sound methodology, and represents a potentially significant contribution to the principles and practices of infection prevention by promoting the integration of research findings and evidence into healthcare policy and practice; and 5) abstract submission rules have been followed. *(Award Prize: $1,000)*

Abstract Publication

In accepting APIC's invitation to present an abstract, authors assign publication rights to APIC. All accepted abstracts will be published in the online edition of the *American Journal of Infection Control* (AJIC), on the APIC website, and in print/electronic format for distribution at the APIC 2020 Annual Conference.

Conference Registration

Presenting authors must be registered for the conference on the day of their oral or poster presentation. **APIC does not provide honorarium to cover expenses for abstract presentations. Poster and Oral Presenters do not receive reimbursement for conference costs such as registration, housing, transportation, etc.** Abstracts may be submitted without advance registration, but authors whose submissions have been accepted for poster presentation are encouraged to register early to take advantage of the early registration discount rate.