



Call for Abstracts
42nd APIC Annual Conference
June 27-29, 2015 – Nashville, TN

The APIC 2015 Annual Conference Committee (ACC) invites attendees to submit abstracts in the areas of infection prevention and control, healthcare epidemiology, and related fields for presentation at the 42nd APIC 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 2015 Annual Conference](#) website 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 are not being filtered out of your inbox.

The body of the abstract will be typed directly into the online submission form. The online program allows submitters to upload one chart/graph as an image file (.jpg, .png, .gif, or .bmp).

Schedule

9/22/14	Call for Presentation Abstract released and submission site opens
12/15/14	Submission deadline for Abstract (11:59 pm Pacific Standard Time). No extensions will be granted.
2/18/15	Acceptance/Rejection notification for all who submitted
6/27/15-6/29/15	Conference Dates, Music City Center, Nashville, TN

All applications must be received no later than 11:59 p.m. PST Monday, December 15, 2015.

Incomplete applications will not be considered for acceptance to APIC 2015. Submitters are encouraged to allow several days before the submission deadline to resolve questions or problems with the online submission process.

Requirements

1. Abstracts must be based on original work that has not or will not be published or presented in any other copyrighted journal or abstract book before June 27, 2015. This includes presentation at another national or international meeting prior to this date, as these abstracts are traditionally published in an abstract book by the organization's affiliated journal.
2. Abstracts are considered official communications to the conference. The presenting author(s) and co-author(s) must comply with the APIC publication policy that abstracts must be based on results that have not been published in any journal nationally or internationally, wholly or in part, prior to the dates of the conference. They may have been previously submitted at smaller/regional meetings but must not have been published in an affiliated abstract book by a journal. 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 conference. If accepted, author(s) and co-author(s) grant APIC publication rights to the abstract in its entirety for all current and future APIC publications. Abstracts cannot be altered in any manner without the written consent of the author(s).
3. Financial Disclosures: In accordance with the American Nurses Credentialing Center's (ANCC) Criteria for Commercial Support, APIC must provide balance and objectivity in all educational activities accredited for CE. Therefore, APIC requires all authors to disclose significant, relevant financial relationships with which they or a spouse/partner have, or have had, within the past 12 months with companies or commercial supporters of any product(s)/service(s) that is related to the topics that are to be presented at the APIC Annual Conference (examples of relationships include, employment, grants/research support, speaker, sponsors, stockholder, etc.). During the abstract submission process, for each author, enter the name of the company with which there is a financial relationship(s) in the field labeled "Company." Enter the relationship with the company in the field labeled "Relationship." ANCC defines an entity that has a 'commercial interest' as any proprietary entity producing healthcare goods or services, with the exception of non-profit or government organizations. If there are no financial relationships to disclose, click the check box labeled "Nothing to Disclose." The intent of the disclosure(s) is to provide the audience, prior to the beginning of the 2015 Annual Conference, with information on which they can make their own independent judgments pertaining to program content. Additionally, faculty are required to provide, on the first slide of the PowerPoint® presentation and/or prominently displayed on the poster presentation, any significant financial interest(s)/relationship(s) or 'Nothing to disclose'.
4. Resolution of Personal Conflicts of Interest: It is the policy of APIC that all abstract presenters resolve any conflicts of interest prior to June 27, 2015 by agreeing to the following:
 - Provide financial disclosures during the abstract submission process or indicate that there is 'Nothing to Disclose.'
 - List financial disclosures on the first PowerPoint® slide if abstract is selected for oral

- presentation.
- Prominently display financial disclosures on the poster if abstract is selected for poster presentation.
 - Refrain from presenting on aspects of the abstract that market products and/or services.
 - **Do not** use brand or trade names anywhere in the abstract, poster, or presentation.
5. Abstracts must be submitted in English. Authors for whom English is not the primary or first language should have their abstracts carefully reviewed for spelling, grammar, and accuracy. The reviewers of abstracts are instructed to grade abstracts on a number of factors, grammar and spelling are graded.
 6. Abstracts must be written in complete sentences in a narrative format. Abstracts using bulleted lists will not be accepted.
 7. If acronyms or abbreviations are used in the abstract, they must be spelled out completely prior to the use of the acronym or abbreviation. This includes even acronyms or abbreviations that may be considered common by the submitter (e.g. ICU for intensive care unit). Abstracts using acronyms or abbreviations inappropriately may not be accepted for presentation at the conference.
 8. Authors who do not want to be considered for an oral presentation should indicate their preference for “poster only” during the abstract submission process.
 9. APIC prohibits the use of abstracts or conference presentations (poster or oral) to market products or services. **Do not** include brand or trade names in the abstract, poster, or presentation.
 10. To facilitate a blinded review, abstract titles and content **must not** include the names of the authors **or** institutions (including company names). Generic terms must be used in place of proper names. Author names and institutions will be published in the onsite/abstract publication. Abstracts including proper names and/or institutional names will not be accepted for presentation at the 2015 APIC Annual Conference.
 11. Presenting authors must be registered for the conference on the day of their scheduled presentation, but do not need to be an APIC member.
 12. One figure is allowed to be included in the **results** section of the abstract. The figure **must** be a single chart, table, or graph, and **must not** include multiple figures combined into one image.
 13. Abstracts will be limited to 300 words, not including spaces. A chart, table, or graph, if uploaded is not included in the character count.
 14. The abstract must be based on complete data. Abstracts indicating that further data will be collected and presented if accepted will not be accepted.

Subject Category

The submitting author must select the most appropriate subject category and scope of practice from the list below. The Abstract Selection 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 and Resistance
- Antisepsis/Disinfection/Sterilization
- Education and Competencies
- Environment of Care/Construction/Remediation
- Healthcare Worker Safety/Occupational Health
- Implementation and Sustainability of Effective Programs
 - Device-Related Infections
 - Site Specific Infections
 - Quality Management Systems/Process Improvement/Adverse Outcomes
- Outbreak Investigation and Emerging/Reemerging Infectious Diseases
- Efficacy and Impact
 - Product Evaluation
 - Cost-Effectiveness
 - Cost Benefit Analysis
- Public Health and Health Policy
 - Emergency Preparedness
 - Public/Mandatory Reporting
 - State and Regional HAI Programs
 - Collaboration
- Continuum of Care
 - Population-Specific
 - Immunocompromised
 - Pediatrics
 - Setting-Specific
 - Ambulatory Care
 - Dialysis
 - Behavioral Health
 - Long Term Care/Home care
- Data Standardization and Validation
 - Surveillance
 - Tools for Infection Prevention
 - Measurement and Evaluation of Interventions

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 February 18, 2015. 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 as well as all other acronyms at first use. 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 abbreviations must be defined at first use. The body of the abstract must be typed directly into the online submission form. One chart, table, or graph can

be uploaded as an image file (.jpg, .png, .gif, or .bmp) **as part of the results section** and is not included in the word count.

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. Be concise and spell out all acronyms and abbreviations. Many authors construct their title in one of two ways (not necessary, but suggested):
2. Indicate the research question, e.g. “What is the impact of antibiotic use on the incidence of Carbapenem-Resistant Enterobacteriaceae?”
3. Answer the research question: e.g. “Increased antibiotic exposure is associated with increased incidence of Carbapenem-Resistant Enterobacteriaceae”

Background: Provide a brief background and describe study 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 (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.
5. One chart, table, or graph can be uploaded as an image file (.jpg, .png, .gif, or .bmp) within this section. The figure **must** be a single chart, table, or graph, and **must not** include multiple figures combined into one image.

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 Educational Conference and International Meeting. 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; 4) 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.
- **Best International Abstract Award:** 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.
- **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.
- **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.
- **Implementation Science Award:** 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.

Poster-Only Presentations

Authors are asked to indicate during the abstract submission process if they prefer to present their abstracts only in poster format (i.e. if they do not want to be considered for an oral presentation).

Display of Poster Presentations

Poster presentations will be displayed on Saturday, June 27 – Monday, June 29, 2015. Poster presenters are required to stand at their poster and will be assigned a time slot by APIC on either Saturday, June 27 from 12:30 – 1:30 pm or Sunday, June 28 from 12:30 – 1:30 pm. Complete information concerning poster presentations will be included in the abstract acceptance e-mail. Reminder: Poster presentations may not be used to market products or services. **Do not** use trade names in the poster. A statement must be included as to whether there are any financial disclosures. All financial disclosures must be prominently displayed on the bottom right-hand corner of the poster. If there is nothing to disclose, specify “Nothing to Disclose”.

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 2015 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. 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 Bird Registration Discount rate. Conference program and registration information can also be accessed through the conference website (www.apic.org/ac2015).

Penalty for Violating Abstract Requirements

When an abstract is submitted and accepted, the presenting author (or, if the presenting author is unable to attend, a co-author) is required to register for the conference and present the abstract as scheduled. If a presenting author withdraws an abstract after Friday, May 15, 2015 or if the abstract is not presented by the author or a co-author at the scheduled session, or if a presentation is used to market products or services, the following penalty will be incurred: the author will be prohibited from presenting papers at APIC for a period of one year (until after June 2016). Those subject to this penalty will be notified by the APIC Headquarters Office. Those who wish to dispute the penalty must write a letter to the APIC Headquarters Office to the attention of the Annual Conference Committee Chair.

Ineligibility to Submit Abstracts

The following violations will result in rejection and/or ineligibility to present abstracts at APIC until after June 2016:

- Violation of the APIC Publication policy.
- Presenting authors who fail to present accepted abstracts as scheduled and did not

formally withdraw the abstract by the Friday, May 15, 2015 deadline.

- Brand/trade names, facility/company name, or other proper names included in the text.
- Presentation is used to market products or services.

Abstract Checklist

You must follow the submission rules or your abstract will be rejected.

- Proofread the abstract for typographical and grammatical errors.
- Abstract is written in complete sentences and not bulleted lists.
- All acronyms and/or abbreviations are spelled out or defined at first use.
- Only one chart/graph/table is included if needed at all.
- All conclusions are supported by the results.
- All conflicts of interest are disclosed as appropriate.
- Abstract has only been submitted in one subject category. Do not submit multiple abstracts on overlapping facets of the same project unless each abstract has important, novel information and clearly stands on its own. Repetitive abstracts will be rejected.
- Abstracts does not include any identifiable information (facility, name, etc.) **<Any abstract containing this information will be rejected as APIC requires a blinded review>**
- Abstracts does not contain any brand names or other commercial influence **<Any abstract containing this information will not be considered for acceptance>**
- Submissions from industry should maintain the same scientific rigor as other submissions, and should **not** contain any promotional material.
- Abstract has not or will not be presented at a national or international meeting such as IDSA, SHEA, ASTMH, ICAAC, ASM, CROI, or ECCMID before June 27, 2015 . Abstracts that have been previously presented, but include updated information with significant new implications may be considered.
- Abstract has not or will not be published in any other copyrighted journal or abstract book before June 27, 2015
- Data presented are based on complete data and not left open to future data collection