Submission Types and FAQs

Clinical Free Paper Track
This submission type is for those who would like to submit an Orthotic, Prosthetic or Pedorthic topic based on a case study, novel research, clinical techniques with or without patient data, and/or literature reviews. Free paper sessions will consist of several speakers presenting their abstract as a 10-minute oral presentation, followed by questions/discussion. Authors submitting multiple abstracts on a common subject may be asked to condense or alter abstracts prior to publication. The sessions are organized around a central theme and the presentations are based on abstract submissions accepted after the review process. Free papers may be submitted as a poster presentation or assigned to be presented as a poster presentation. The top-scoring submissions will be considered for the prestigious Thranhardt Award.

Clinical Free Paper - Student Poster Contest Entry
The Student Poster Award honors two meritorious scientific papers submitted for presentation as a poster at the AOPA National Assembly. The purpose of these awards is to encourage students and residents to display outstanding posters at the AOPA National Assembly.
The Otto and Lucille Becker Award will be presented for the best orthotic abstract submitted and the Edwin and Kathryn Arbogast Award for the best prosthetic abstract submitted by a qualifying student or resident.

The poster must be exhibited and presented at the AOPA National Assembly for the award recipient to receive the prize. The winners of the two scientific poster awards will be published in the O&P Almanac. The winners will receive a $500 cash award, registration to the show, economy class airfare to the National Assembly and three nights hotel. To qualify to present a poster in this category and eligible for consideration for this award, the main author must be a student (baccalaureate or master level) or a resident at a qualified patient care facility.

These awards have been made possible by a special endowment by Becker Orthopedic and WillowWood.

Awards Selection Process
An independent committee has been formed to review and judge all eligible scientific poster submissions.

Eligibility
Abstracts will not be considered for either award if they have been previously presented, published, or are currently submitted with pending decision on acceptance elsewhere.
Deadline: April 30, 2026

Clinical Symposium (Organized Session)
The submission type is a full session submission - typically a 90-minute session panel program consisting of four presenters. A Symposium should present thematically related research or topics addressing significant problems or controversies in orthotics and prosthetics. The symposium should bring together one or more of the world's leading experts to present current developments and planned research directions. Where appropriate, the symposium should present differing points of view on a particular topic.

Business Education Individual Paper/Presentation

This submission is for an individual 45–60-minute presentation to share your business expertise at the AOPA National Assembly. You may be eligible for the prestigious Sam E. Hamontree Business Education award.

Digital O&P Care Individual Paper/Presentation

While the Digital Education Workgroup is interested in a variety of education topics, they are specifically interested in the following presentations:

DATA: Remote patient monitoring, AI Tools, App based data, Wearables, DATA – What, When, How – Synthesis, and Implementation of an outcomes measuring program.

DESIGN: 3D Printing,3D Device, Modification Software, Remote education tools, CFab services, and Proper limb alignment in digital shape capture.

APPLICATION: Telehealth, HIPAA Compliance Online Digital, Collaborative – EMR with referrals, Digitizing fee schedules through AI, and Robotics in O&P.

Digital O&P Care Roundtable Full Session Submission

The submission type is a full session submission - typically a 90-minute session panel program consisting of four presenters. A roundtable should present thematically-related research or topics addressing digital O&P care. The roundtable should bring together two or more of the world's leading experts to present current developments and topics in Digital O&P. Where appropriate, the roundtable should present differing points of view on a particular topic.

Pedorthic Individual Paper/Presentation Submission

This submission type is for an individual presentation or paper that will be submitted as part of a larger session.

Pedorthic Roundtable Full Session Submission

This submission type is a full session submission - typically a 90-minute session panel program consisting of four presenters. A roundtable should present thematically-related research or topics addressing pedorthics. The roundtable should bring together two or more of the world's leading experts to discuss current topics in pedorthics. Where appropriate, the roundtable should present differing points of view on a particular topic.

Technical Individual Paper/Presentation Submission

his submission type is for an individual presentation or paper that will be submitted as part of a larger session. The workgroup is looking for a wide variety of education to accommodate all levels of experience. Share your technical fabrication technique with the profession. The workgroup is looking for unique content that is relevant, practical and will make an impact on the technical community. Demonstrations and hands-on programming is a plus. No infomercials, please.

Technical Roundtable Full Session Submission

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CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q. What is the timeline for the Call for Presentations process?
A. The timeline is below:

Tuesday, November 20	Call for Presentation Announcement
Wednesday, March 4	Call for Presentations Deadline
March 5 – March 26	Submission Review and Scheduling
March 27 – April 24	Program Organized
Mid-May	Confirmation letters to presenters
	Program on Website; Registration Open
July 16, 2026	Early Bird Registration Deadline

Q. Where can I find instructions on how to submit?
It takes around 5 minutes to submit.
You can find instructions at the bottom of the Call for Presentations page.
You can reference this on-demand recording for a video tutorial, as well.
On-Demand Tutorial
Passcode: 62.%Pr+v

Q. What is the review process? How are papers graded?
A. All paper submissions, except the business education program, will be graded via a blind review process. Each paper will be graded by at least two reviewers.
Grading will be based on
- Relevance or level of interest in topic
- Quality of Scientific Content*
- Quality of Clinical Content (applicability)

*Hierarchy of Scientific Content

Q. What if a submission has been presented before?
A. When scoring a paper, the reviewer will take into consideration if a paper has been presented before—and to what audience.

Q. When will I know if my paper has been accepted or not?

A. The planning committee will make every effort follow the timeline and plan to have confirmation notices distributed by no later than mid-May.

Q. Who do I contact if I have questions on a submission?
A. For further information regarding the submission process or the National Assembly in general, contact AOPA Staff at Assembly@AOPAnet.org.

Q. What if I wish to make changes to a paper that has already been submitted?
A. AOPA's new abstract/speaker management system allows you to create an account where you can log back in and make changes to a submission.

Q. What audio-visual equipment is available to presenters?
A. All education meeting rooms will be set with standard audio-visual equipment, including LCD projector, screen, lectern, microphone, and a dedicated AV technician.

Q. What is the difference between a paper presentation and a poster presentation?
A. While formal paper presentations involve verbal sharing with large groups, poster presentations rely on visual impact to communicate with viewers on a more informal, individual basis.

Q. What is the difference between an individual paper presentation and an organized session?
A. An individual presentation is a topic submitted for a shorter presentation time as part of a larger session organized by the chairs. An organized session submission is a full session submission for the full 90-minute time slot.

Q. I am not sure where my presentation should be submitted.
A. Email at us assembly@aopanet.org and we will do our best to help you or connect you with a program chair.

Q. What support does AOPA provide speakers?
A. AOPA provides 60% off a conference registration to all presentation and session speakers. A promotional code will be sent to you in your welcome email that will be tied to your name.

Q. What is a non-presenting author (Clinical Free Papers/Poster Presentations)?
A. This is an author who is not coming to Las Vegas, but you would like to list as a contributor to the project. They will not receive a Cadmium login.

Q. What are my responsibilities as a presenter?
A. Your responsibilities will include uploading your headshot and bio, uploading a PowerPoint presentation using the AOPA PowerPoint template (usually due two weeks prior to the meeting), registering for the Assembly, and signing a copyright/recording waiver.

Q. I am submitting a session, but don't have a moderator.
A. Please leave the moderator slot empty, and the chairs will work to find a moderator for your session.