



Research 101 

## How to Write a Strong Conference Proposal

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### Faculty and Disclosure Statement

Sean is the Senior Research Analyst at AAPA. As a member of AAPA's research team, he approaches the benefits of research for advancing the PA profession from a unique perspective.

Sean received his Ph.D. from Wayne State University in 2021. He has a great deal of experience as a research methodologist and development innovative approaches to tackling research questions with various types of data. Formerly, Sean was the Director of Forensics at Ferris State University and has developed curriculum designed to help people communicate their research findings for almost a decade.



Sean Kolhoff: No relevant disclosures

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### Learning Outcomes

By the end of the session, you should be able to:

- Explain how imposter syndrome is a barrier to conference submission
- Tailor a conference proposal to a specific audience
- Develop a submission schedule for future conferences

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**Who would want to hear about my research?**

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**Have you ever thought...**

*"I'm not enough of an expert to talk about this"*

*"I doubt I will have anything to share at a conference that other people would find useful"*

*"What if someone attending my talk knows more about my topic than I do?"*

*"I don't think what I do is even research, or important enough to share"*

**You might have imposter syndrome!**

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**Imposter syndrome is real and prevalent**

Despite outstanding academic and professional accomplishments, many people believe they are not bright enough to be where they are!

- This phenomenon occurs most in women.
- Having numerous achievements does not always make this feeling go away!

For more information, feel free to check out this video from TED-Ed speaker Elizabeth Cox.



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Try these solutions:

- Start small
- Focus on what you bring to the conference.
- Leave perfection at the door.
- Be mindful of your words and self-talk.
- Find a co-presenter.



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## Developing a tailored proposal



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### Matching your research to an audience



- AAPA Annual Conference
- AAMC Health Workforce Research Conference
- Mayo Clinic Wound Symposium: The Edges of Wound Care
- PAEA Education Forum

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### Developing your materials

- Check the conference's call for proposals to identify what needs to be submitted to the conference.
- Many conferences require an author to send an abstract, but the elements within the submission may vary.

**Themes**

We are looking for presentation proposals related, but not limited, to the following themes:

*Continuity and innovation:* We are looking for research that highlights creative ways PAs are finding ways to help PAs increase access to care, implementing innovative treatments, establishing team-work teams, and developing PA Programs. Share research on creative ways to ease time between and improve patient care.

*PA Role and Practice:* Research in this area may address the reach of the PA profession, PA roles on, as well as the practice of medical teams with a focus on team collaboration, innovations into the expanded role of PAs, and how legislation and systems influence the way PAs practice.

*PA Value and Impact:* Research in this area may address the role PAs play in providing quality healthcare, improving patient satisfaction, and increasing access to care. It may also address patient awareness or perceptions of PAs, or facilitation of medical care, effectiveness of medical education, or healthcare.

*Understanding the PA Workforce:* Research in this area may address issues of diversity within the profession, PA specialization trends, the ability for PAs to have career flexibility, workforce projections, or how national and state practice barriers are impacting PAs.

**Research Types**

The presentation topic list does not include new primary research. Rather, we are looking for research with clear application to the PA profession. If you have a project that you think will speak an idea for research in others, consider submitting your work to another site.

- New original research on PAs and PA education
- Case studies and clinical research of practical conditions
- Pilot studies and demonstration projects such as a clinical or educational intervention
- Evidence based practice research that is updated clinical guidelines
- Quality improvement activities including team optimization and improving patient outcomes

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### Final checks example: Matching your abstract to the conference call requirements

Final Editing is the final review of all abstracts submitted to the program committee to ensure they meet the program needs prior to submission. For more information, refer to the Research Submission Guidelines.

**All submissions:**

We will be collecting the following information for each author:

- Name and credentials
- Email
- Title

**Note:** the following must be BLIND. This means that we should not be able to tell what organization you work for when you write your abstracts, etc. If your submission is not blinded, it will not move on to the review process.

- Submission Title (i.e. and abbreviated) title
- Abstract consisting of the following sections: background and purpose or clinical importance, description and methodology, results, and discussion and conclusions (200 word limit)
- Brief description (200 character limit)
- Keywords used for searching to others on site
- References
- Top 3 learning objectives (At the conclusion of this session, participants should be able to...)
- Statement on the importance of the topic for PAs.

Once you submit your response, you will receive an automated email with a link to make any edits.

**All edits must be made by 1/8/2023.**

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## Planning your conference schedule

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### What do you do while waiting for acceptance?

|                              |            |            |
|------------------------------|------------|------------|
| Submission Type              | Start      | End        |
| Submit the presentation      | 10/1/2022  | 10/15/2022 |
| Final the background details | 10/1/2022  | 10/15/2022 |
| Prepare abstract             | 10/1/2022  | 10/15/2022 |
| Review abstract              | 10/1/2022  | 10/15/2022 |
| Submit abstract by 14        | 10/15/2022 | 10/15/2022 |
| Submit abstract by 14        | 10/15/2022 | 10/15/2022 |
| Final the background details | 10/1/2022  | 10/15/2022 |
| Prepare abstract             | 10/1/2022  | 10/15/2022 |
| Review abstract              | 10/1/2022  | 10/15/2022 |
| Submit abstract by 14        | 10/15/2022 | 10/15/2022 |
| Submit abstract by 14        | 10/15/2022 | 10/15/2022 |

- Plan out your conference submission schedule!
- Develop a calendar and identify the submission dates for various conferences you are interested in attending.
- Some conferences allow "encore" presentations, but not all do!
  - Verify in the conference call, and plan your submissions accordingly
  - You can always resubmit a rejected abstract to a different conference

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### Important considerations:

- Will your employer cover any of your conference costs?
- How far is the conference from your home?
  - i.e., will you have to fly? or can you drive? What are lodging costs?
- Will this conference help you professionally?

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### Final Thoughts

- How can you adapt what you do in your practice into research presentations for a conference?
- What additional information and support do you need to make this happen?
- What can you do ensure you are effectively planning out your prospective conference presentations?

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### Additional Talks

- The Importance of Research to Advance the PA Profession
- The Importance of Developing a Personal Research Agenda
- The Importance of the National PA Research Agenda
- How to Become a Peer Reviewer

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### For additional information

**Contact us at:**  
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**Learn more at:**  
aapa.org/research

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