

Finding the Right Track for Your Abstract Submission

2027 Call for Podium and Poster Abstracts and Preconference Workshop Proposals

Choosing the right track helps ensure your abstract reaches the most relevant audience and is reviewed in the appropriate context. Conference tracks reflect the diversity, innovation, and interprofessional nature of hospice and palliative care.

Aligning your submission with the best-fit track supports fair review and helps us build a balanced, high-quality educational program. If your work spans multiple areas, select the track that best reflects its primary focus and intended impact.

We welcome primary-author abstracts from all members of the interdisciplinary team, including nurses and all healthcare professionals that highlight innovation, evidence-based practice, education, leadership, and research across care settings. Abstracts are reviewed using standardized criteria, and final program development considers the diverse disciplines and perspectives that contribute to hospice and palliative care.

Questions to Guide Your Track Selection

As you prepare your abstract, ask yourself:

- What is the primary focus of my work?
- Who is the intended audience?
- What gaps in knowledge or practice does this work address?
- How does it advance competence, collaboration, or care delivery?
- Is this content best suited for a broad audience or a specialized group?

Whether your submission has wide relevance or is tailored to a focused audience, each abstract contributes meaningfully to the learning experience at the Annual Assembly.

Track Descriptions

Leadership & Program Development

Content Focus

Strategies to design, lead, and sustain high-quality hospice and palliative care programs across diverse clinical settings. Topics may include team building, leadership development, change management, business planning, financial sustainability, strategic planning, workforce development, equity-focused system design, regulatory and policy navigation, succession planning, quality metrics, and the scaling and replication of innovative care models.

Who Should Submit

Current and aspiring leaders across all levels of hospice and palliative care, including program

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directors, operational and clinical leaders, early-career professionals in leadership roles, administrators, and quality improvement specialists. This track welcomes submissions from individuals and teams working to strengthen organizational effectiveness, lead change, foster team development, and build sustainable, high-impact programs.

Session Attendee Target Audience

Clinicians, administrators, and team leaders seeking tools, strategies, and insights to guide program development, operational effectiveness, and long-term sustainability. This track is also well-suited for early-career professionals preparing for leadership roles, as well as seasoned leaders looking to adapt to changing healthcare environments and community needs.

Hospice

Content Focus

Best practices and advances in hospice care, with a focus on improving quality, access, and equity across settings. Topics may include symptom management, caregiver support and bereavement services, interdisciplinary teamwork, serious illness communication, regulatory and reimbursement updates, hospice quality reporting, rural and underserved care delivery, culturally responsive care, hospice eligibility and recertification challenges, innovations in home and community-based hospice, integration of specialty consult services, and strategies for improving transitions of care and continuity across the serious illness trajectory.

Who Should Submit

This track welcomes submissions from professionals from all disciplines who are committed to advancing high-quality, person- and family-centered hospice care. Early career clinicians and team members are encouraged to contribute as well. Submissions highlight direct patient care, interdisciplinary team dynamics, operational innovations, community-based approaches, regulatory navigation, or quality and compliance strategies.

Session Attendee Target Audience

Hospice clinicians and interdisciplinary team members alongside administrators, quality and compliance professionals, and early-career providers seeking to enhance hospice care delivery across settings and populations. This track is also relevant for learners preparing for leadership roles in hospice practice and program development.

Pediatrics

Content Focus

This track explores the unique needs of children with serious illness and their families, with a focus on evidence-based approaches to communication, symptom management, psychosocial support, and care delivery. The track welcomes innovative models that improve access, equity, and continuity of pediatric palliative and hospice care across settings.

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Who Should Submit

Clinicians and interdisciplinary professionals providing care for pediatric patients with serious illness including researchers, educators, and program developers working in pediatric palliative care, including perinatal, adolescent or transitional care. Submissions from those integrating pediatric best practices into lifespan-based care are also encouraged.

Session Attendee Target Audience

Interdisciplinary team members who care for seriously ill children and their families in any setting. This track is ideal for pediatric-focused clinicians, adult-based clinicians infrequently caring for children, learners in pediatric subspecialties, and those seeking to integrate developmentally and family-centered approaches into broader palliative care practice.

Innovations in Care

Content Focus

This forward-looking track highlights transformative innovations and quality improvement initiatives that reshape hospice and palliative care. Topics may include the use of emerging technologies, digital health tools, novel care delivery models, data-driven decision-making, artificial intelligence, and predictive analytics. Additional areas of focus include system redesign, equity-enhancing interventions, serious illness population health strategies, rapid-cycle improvement, and scalable approaches that improve access, outcomes, and patient and caregiver experiences across diverse settings and populations.

Who Should Submit

Clinicians, administrators, researchers, educators, and interdisciplinary teams at any career stage who are developing, implementing, or evaluating innovative practices in serious illness care. This includes individuals involved in quality improvement, health technology, systems-level change, or cross-sector partnerships aimed at advancing the field.

Session Attendee Target Audience

Interdisciplinary professionals committed to improving care delivery through innovation, particularly those engaged in program redesign, technology integration, quality improvement, and systems-based practice. This track is also valuable for learners interested in the future of hospice and palliative care and in understanding how innovation can drive equity, effectiveness, and sustainability.

Symptom Assessment & Management

Content Focus

This clinically focused track advances evidence-based strategies for comprehensive assessment and management of the complex symptoms experienced by individuals with serious illness. Topics may include pain and non-pain symptom management, psychological and emotional distress, existential suffering, integrative therapies, pharmacologic and non-pharmacologic interventions,

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interdisciplinary approaches, patient-reported outcomes, and innovations in symptom evaluation tools and clinical workflows. Emphasis is placed on person-centered care and the translation of evidence into everyday practice across care settings and populations.

Who Should Submit

Hospice and palliative care clinicians and interdisciplinary team members who are engaged in improving symptom management at the bedside, within programs, or through systems-level initiatives. Submissions are encouraged from those developing, testing, or implementing new tools, models, or approaches to enhance symptom-related outcomes.

Session Attendee Target Audience

Clinicians and learners seeking to strengthen their expertise in symptom management, including those in clinical practice, fellowship training, or advanced roles. This track is especially relevant for those who deliver direct care, lead symptom-focused programs, or support quality improvement in symptom control across diverse care settings.

Education

Content Focus

This track focuses on inclusive, advanced, and evidence-informed approaches to teaching, learning, and professional development in hospice and palliative care. Topics may include curriculum design, interprofessional education, fellow and trainee development, simulation and experiential learning, digital and asynchronous learning strategies, reflective practice, narrative medicine, structured assessment tools (e.g., milestones, EPAs), and strategies for integrating DEI principles into educational content. Emphasis is placed on aligning educational strategies with evolving learner needs, competency frameworks, and real-world practice improvement.

Who Should Submit

Educators, program directors, faculty, curriculum developers, fellowship leaders, clinical preceptors, and learners who are designing or delivering education in hospice and palliative care. Submissions are encouraged by those advancing teaching methods, developing competency-based education, promoting educational equity, or evaluating learning outcomes.

Session Attendee Target Audience

Educators, program directors and clinicians involved in teaching across disciplines and settings, including academic institutions, clinical training programs, and continuing education. This track is ideal for individuals involved in the development of learners at all levels, from students and trainees to practicing professionals, as well as those focused on innovation in faculty development, lifelong learning, and professional mentorship.

Scientific Research

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Content Focus

Abstracts must focus on original scientific research reflecting systematic investigation designed to generate new knowledge that advances the science of hospice and palliative care. Research presented at the 2027 Annual Assembly aims to foster bilateral communication between scientific and clinical communities, supporting the translation of evidence into practice and policy.

Scientific Research Sub-Categories

Abstracts should be submitted under one of the following categories:

- **Basic/Bench Science:** Fundamental, laboratory-based research exploring the mechanisms of symptoms, pain, and disease processes
- **Qualitative Science:** Examines the experiences, values, and decision-making in serious illness
- **Observational Science:** Analyses of patterns and outcomes in serious illness and end-of-life populations
- **Health Services Science:** How care is delivered, accesses, and evaluated
- **Clinical Trials Science:** Testing treatments, models, or symptom strategies that improve quality of life
- **Dissemination and Implementation Science:** Integrating practices into routine clinical settings
- **Systematic Review:** Addressing a specific research question following a specific methodology. Systematic reviews must use a reproducible, pre-defined protocol to search, screen and assess the risk of bias in studies.

Please note: Abstracts submitted to the Scientific Research track for podium presentations must include results to be considered for review.

Who Should Submit

- Investigators, research teams, clinicians, trainees, and scholars across all disciplines
- Individuals and groups contributing to the evidence base, informing policy and practice, and translating research into meaningful impact

Session Attendee Target Audience

- Research scientists
- Educators and policy advocates
- Clinicians and trainees
- Attendees interested in research design, critical appraisal, data application, and evidence-based practice