

SOCIETY OF  
PEDIATRIC  
PSYCHOLOGY  
ANNUAL  
CONFERENCE



SPPAC

APRIL 25-27, 2024 | NEW ORLEANS, LA

## Call for Proposals

### What's Next? Defining the Path Forward for Pediatric Psychology

The practice of Pediatric Psychology has shifted since our discipline's origin in 1967 and many lessons were learned in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic and the inflection point of the social justice movement. As Pediatric Psychologists, we were called to rapidly mobilize our skillsets to meet the needs of our communities, patients and families, learners, profession, and our own wellbeing. As Division 54 continues to grow and adapt, it becomes necessary to redefine the future of Pediatric Psychology beyond the traditional walls of our practice. The lessons learned in the past four years will undoubtedly shape the future of Pediatric Psychology and prepare us for the everchanging landscape of the world, including future pandemics. Thus, our goal is to develop a SPPAC 2024 program that is reflective, innovative, and relevant for the field of Pediatric Psychology across all career stages to disseminate knowledge learned and evaluated within this place and time in history, as well as define the path forward. With this, we are excited to release the call for proposals for SPPAC 2024 and announce the conference theme: **What's Next? Defining the Path Forward for Pediatric Psychology.**

Consistent with this theme, we are seeking proposals that demonstrate our field's growth, sustainability, and relevance for decades to come, as well as provide hope for the promising future of our profession. We are also calling for proposals that center the voices and needs of those who hold multiple marginalized identities. Further, we are interested in understanding how the evolution of Pediatric Psychology has impacted the communities within which we work, and the efforts made to intentionally reach and respond to their needs. Finally, we seek broad expertise in continuing to inform how to prioritize our organization's values of anti-oppression, social justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion. We hope that SPPAC 2024 will be a time for reflecting on our hard-earned lessons of the past four years with a hopeful look towards the future. Below are some examples of topics that are consistent with the conference theme, but these are intended to generate ideas, and proposals are not limited to the topics below. We also encourage proposals that are cross-cutting and designed to address multiple domains of practice.

#### Professional Development and Wellbeing for Psychologists and Learners:

- Applications of how leadership roles, privilege, and power by Pediatric Psychologists were leveraged during the COVID-19 pandemic and/or social justice movements for actionable systemic change

- Reflexive and cutting-edge strategies to effectively support, train, and supervise Pediatric Psychology learners in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic and/or social justice movement
- Systemic efforts to attend to and improve the mental health and wellness of Pediatric Psychologists across the career lifespan (i.e., undergraduate training to retirement) during the COVID-19 pandemic and/or social justice movement
- Professional development and growth opportunities as it relates to various career trajectories for Pediatric Psychologists, as well as how to creatively shift careers (e.g., moving from academia to private practice, consultation, retirement)

#### Clinical Practice:

- Innovative, evidenced-based modifications made to the delivery of services via telemedicine (intervention, supervision, and research), and efforts advocating for billing and financial sustainability for telemedicine services (within institutions, policy) for Pediatric Psychology
- Development of sustainable programs and efforts that have evolved our clinical practice to support Pediatric Psychologists' ability to respond to social justice and public health crises

#### Research and Dissemination:

- Innovative strategies for the rapid dissemination of trusted, relevant, and scientific information outside of the walls of academia and medicine
- Research centered on community participatory action methods to engage and center the communities most impacted and vulnerable to the COVID-19 pandemic and/or oppression

#### Policy, Advocacy, and Community Partnerships:

- Centering the voices of diverse and historically marginalized pediatric patients to adapt evidence-based practice to support equitable and inclusive delivery of care
- Novel approaches to collaborating with community partners, medical colleagues, and other stakeholders for the uptake of rapidly evolving science
- Strategies and programs that are redefining the traditional role of Pediatric Psychology to attend to the needs of the community (e.g., locally and nationally; professionally)

## General Guidelines and Requirements

All proposals will be peer-reviewed. We are soliciting five types of proposals for SPPAC 2024:

- **Pre-conference workshops**
- **Scientific symposia**
- **Professional development seminars**
- **Poster abstracts**
- **Paper abstracts** - *Accepted paper abstracts will be presented by the first author in a scientific symposium.*

*See below for specific guidelines and requirements for each of the types of submissions.*

**All poster and paper abstracts accepted for presentation at SPPAC will be published in a Supplement of the *Journal of Pediatric Psychology*, SPP's official journal.**

The SPPAC Scientific Program Committee is committed to developing a conference program that is inclusive of a range of sizes of institutions and professional networks. Multiple submissions from the same dataset are discouraged. A study divided into small sub-studies is discouraged unless there is clear rationale for presenting various aims in different abstracts. All scientific oral and poster proposals should represent final and original results. Proposals based on ongoing projects will be evaluated in light of likelihood of complete data by the conference.

Abstracts should be written in clear and concise English, so that reviewers are able to focus solely on the scientific merits of the submission. We encourage authors who are non-English-speaking to have their abstracts checked for grammar and spelling prior to submission.

### **Learning Objectives Guidelines**

All oral presentation proposals (scientific symposia, professional development seminars, pre-conference workshops) must include three to five specific learning objectives that participants will achieve from the proposed session. Learning objectives are statements that clearly describe what the participants are expected to learn and how participants can apply this knowledge in practice or other professional contexts. These must be observable and measurable.

Terms to consider when writing learning objectives:

- List, describe, recite, write
- Compute, discuss, explain, predict
- Apply, demonstrate, prepare, use
- Analyze, design, select, utilize
- Compile, create, plan, revise
- Assess, compare, rate, critique

Terms to avoid when writing learning objectives:

- Know, understand
- Learn, appreciate
- Become aware of, become familiar with

### **Scientific Symposium Guidelines**

Submissions for scientific symposia will be considered for 75-minute sessions about a specific scientific topic within the field of pediatric psychology, preferably related to the conference theme. Symposium proposals can include a **maximum of 3 speakers and there must also be a moderator**. Only the speakers will present a 15-20 minute oral presentation of data and/or slides, with the moderator facilitating a question-and-answer session with audience members. Scientific symposium proposals are required to have at least 1 presenter at a psychologist and/or faculty level. Non-psychologist co-presenters (patients, parents, and professionals from other disciplines) are encouraged.

**Scientific symposium proposals must include:**

1. Presenter information including full names, degrees, and affiliations.
2. A summary of the proposed session, including the purpose, structure, relevance to the conference theme, and approach to addressing justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion (max 400 words).
3. Three to five specific learning objectives that participants will achieve from the session
4. Individual abstracts from each contributing speaker (max 300 words each).
5. Please note if the submission represents a collaborative effort among members of a SIG or across SIGs.
6. Please specify the learner level (beginner, intermediate, and/or advanced).

**Scientific symposium proposals will be reviewed based on the following six categories:**

- Significance: Importance of the study findings, contribution to pediatric psychology.
- Approach: Quality of the research methods.
- Summary score: Overall quality of the proposal.
- Alignment with the conference theme.
- Equity, diversity, and inclusion considerations.
- Incorporation of patient and family voices.

Preference will be given to proposals that are relevant to the conference theme, are inter-institutional collaborations, and that include first-time speakers and speakers from diverse backgrounds. The

Scientific Program Committee may recommend revisions to scientific symposia proposals prior to acceptance.

### **Professional Development Seminar Guidelines**

Submissions for a professional development seminar will be considered for a 75-minute professional development session about the professional practice related to pediatric psychology across any aspect of the career span (e.g., training to retirement), preferably related to the conference theme. Professional development seminars can include a **maximum of 3 speakers and there must also be a moderator**. Only the speakers will present a 15-20 minute oral presentation of data and/or slides, with the moderator facilitating a question-and-answer session with audience members.

#### **Professional development seminar proposals must include:**

1. Presenter information including full names, degrees, and affiliations.
2. A description of the proposed session, including the purpose, structure, and relevance to the conference theme (max 400 words).
3. A brief description of the career development stage of the target audience (i.e., students/early career/mid-career/late career or senior career) and background (researchers, clinicians, administrators, scholar practitioners, etc), and how the proposed session will meet the professional development needs of that audience (max 200 words).
4. A brief description of the relevant expertise of the presenters, proposed teaching methods, and approach to prioritizing justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion (max 200 words).
5. Three to five specific learning objectives.
6. Individual abstracts from each contributing speaker describing what the speaker will contribute to the session, the teaching strategies that will be used, and their relevant expertise (max 300 words each).
7. Please note if the submission represents a collaborative effort among members of a SIG or across SIGs
8. Please specify the learner level (beginner, intermediate, and/or advanced).

#### **Professional Development Seminar submissions will be reviewed based on the following five categories:**

- Significance: Relevance to the professional development of pediatric psychologists.
- Approach: Quality of the teaching methods.
- Summary score: Overall quality of the proposal.
- Alignment with the conference theme.
- Equity, diversity, and inclusion considerations.

Preference will be given to proposals that are relevant to the conference theme, are developed for a target audience at more than one career stage, are inter-institutional collaborations, and that include first-time speakers and speakers from diverse backgrounds. The Scientific Program Committee may recommend revisions to professional development seminar proposals prior to acceptance.

### **Pre-Conference Workshop Submissions**

We invite proposals for 150-minute (2.5 hour), or 180-minute (3.0 hour for ethics), pre-conference workshops that explore a topic in-depth in order enhance pediatric psychologists' skills in advocacy, leadership, research, and/or clinical practice. Presenters must have established expertise in the topic area. All pre-conference workshops will be held on Thursday April 25, 2024.

#### **Submissions for Pre-Conference Workshops must include:**

1. A summary of the proposed pre-conference workshop, including the purpose, structure, and relevance to the conference theme (max 400 words).
2. A brief description of the relevant expertise of the presenters, proposed teaching methods, and approach to prioritizing justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion (max 200 words).
3. A brief description of the career development stage of the target audience (i.e., students/early career/mid-career/late career or senior career) and background (researchers, clinicians,

administrators, scholar practitioners, etc), and how the proposed session will meet the education and training needs of that audience (max 200 words).

4. Three to five specific learning objectives.
5. Please note if the submission represents a collaborative effort among members of a SIG or across SIGs
6. Please specify if there is a need to limit the session to a certain number of attendees and provide a rationale.
7. Please specify the learner level (beginner, intermediate, and/or advanced).

**Pre-conference workshop submissions will be reviewed based on the following five categories:**

- Significance: Relevance to pediatric psychologists' skills in advocacy, leadership, research, and/or clinical practice.
- Approach: Quality of the teaching methods.
- Summary score: Overall quality of the proposal.
- Alignment with the conference theme.
- Equity, diversity, and inclusion considerations.

Preference will be given to proposals that are inter-institutional collaborations, relate to the conference theme, are developed for a target audience at more than one career stage, employ effective and active teaching strategies, and prioritize our organization's values of justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion. The Scientific Program Committee may recommend revisions to pre-conference workshop submissions prior to acceptance.

### **Paper and Poster Abstract Guidelines**

Submissions for paper and poster abstracts must not exceed **300 words** (not including authors, affiliations, and title). Please list author affiliation based on where the work was completed. Tables, figures, and references are not permitted. Authors are limited to **one** first-authored abstract submission. Authors can indicate if they would like their abstract submission to be considered for paper presentation only, poster presentation only, or both. Accepted paper abstracts will be presented orally by the first author in a scientific symposium. Accepted poster abstracts will be presented in poster sessions. All poster submissions must have data at the time of submission. Authors must attest that abstract data are novel and are not currently submitted nor under review or published in any other medium that will be published or presented before SPPAC 2024.

**All abstract submissions must include the following headings:**

- Introduction (background, objective)
- Methods (sample, procedures, measures, analysis)
- Results (primary findings)
- Conclusions (implications)

**Paper and poster abstracts will be reviewed based on the following six categories:**

- Significance: Importance of the study findings, contribution to pediatric psychology.
- Approach: Quality of the research methods
- Summary score: Overall quality of the proposal.
- Alignment with the conference theme.
- Equity, diversity, and inclusion considerations.
- Incorporation of patient and family voices.

### **Poster Specifications**

Posters should not exceed the dimensions of 4 feet x 4 feet. Poster Boards will have 2 posters displayed on each side of the poster boards. All posters will be assigned a poster # for each poster session.

Here are a few hints for good poster presentations:

- Make your poster simple and eye-catching
- Use simple drawings, diagrams, graphs and/or photographs
- Graphics should be explicit and brief

- Have clean and attractive layouts
- Use few panels, including an introduction/summary.
- Simple use of color can add emphasis effectively.
- The 6 best color combinations are:
- Black on white
- Red on white
- Green on white
- Blue on white
- White on blue
- White on black
- Use large print and a minimum of text
- Your poster should contain headings that organize and logically display the information.
- You may bring handouts for distribution (350 attendees are expected)
- Keep abbreviations and jargon to a minimum

### ***Back by Popular Demand***

#### **Publication in the Abstracts Issue of *Journal of Pediatric Psychology***

- Poster and paper abstracts accepted for presentation at SPPAC will be published in a supplement of the *Journal of Pediatric Psychology*, SPP's official journal, on the JPP website. The supplemental issue will be published around the time of the SPPAC conference.
  - ***Late-breaking poster abstracts will not be included in the Journal of Pediatric Psychology supplemental issue.***
- No revisions can be made after the abstract submission deadline. Please ensure that the abstract submission (including title, authors, credentials, affiliations, and results) is accurate at the time of submission.
- All abstracts, regardless of publication in the *Journal of Pediatric Psychology* supplemental issue, will be displayed digitally in non-enduring meeting materials (e.g., mobile app and online program).

Finally, author profiles inquire about student/learner's desire to be considered for a travel award if the cost of the conference will impact ability to attend. Answers to these questions **are not** utilized in any acceptance decision and are solely being utilized to improve the process of awarding student/learner travel grants. Additionally, questions are asked about religious observations that would preclude authors from submitting on any specific day of the conference. Please note, this information is utilized for submission purposes only and **will not** be considered/impact acceptance decision.

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#### **For information about conference programming, please contact:**

2024 Conference Chair: Naadira Upshaw, PsyD: [nupshaw@emory.edu](mailto:nupshaw@emory.edu)

2024 Conference Co-Chair: Lauren Harrison; [leharr@stanford.edu](mailto:leharr@stanford.edu)

For questions related to conference logistics (e.g., hotel, registration, etc), please contact: [info@pedpsych.org](mailto:info@pedpsych.org)