



Call for Proposals

All proposals should be submitted through the [SPPAC 2025 Submission Site](#).

Moving Forward with Hope: Advancing Health Equity in Pediatric Psychology through Science, Practice, and Advocacy

For the last decade, the annual meetings for the Society of Pediatric Psychology have centered on defining the ever-changing state of the art of our field. This has required intention and willingness to adapt to rapidly shifting healthcare and political landscapes as we work together to trailblaze a path forward for our science and clinical practice. As a profession, we are learning to stretch our skillsets beyond the traditional confines of our roles as clinician-scientists to meet the call to be advocates and change agents across science, practice, training, and policy. SPPAC 2024 provided the space to come together and reflect on the work we have done as a field, pushing us to collectively define the path forward. Building off of the energy and momentum from SPPAC 2024, we are excited to release the call for proposals for SPPAC 2025 and announce the conference theme: ***Moving Forward with Hope: Advancing Health Equity in Pediatric Psychology through Science, Practice, and Advocacy***.

Our goal for SPPAC 2025 is to develop a conference program that is relevant to our membership across all career stages and showcases the innovation in science and practice that is at the core of the work we do as pediatric psychologists. This includes emphasizing the development of culturally competent therapeutic interventions, integrating trauma-informed care practices, and enhancing provider training and competence to address health disparities. We also aim to highlight groundbreaking research on health disparities, community-engaged research, and the integration of behavioral and physical health. Moreover, SPP is committed to fostering advocacy for health equity, understanding the impacts of policy on pediatric health, and training future advocates to lead the charge in promoting mental health equity. By doing so, we strive to advance health equity in pediatric psychology through a comprehensive approach that encompasses science, practice, and advocacy. Below are examples of topics aligned with the conference theme intended to support the generation of ideas.

Science and Dissemination:

- Research on health disparities in pediatric populations, such as longitudinal studies tracking the impact of social determinants of health, interventions aimed at reducing health disparities and improving outcomes.
- Community-engaged research, such as partnerships with communities to identify research priorities, participatory action research methods in pediatric psychology, evaluating the impact of community-based interventions on child health.
- Research training and mentorship of underrepresented trainees.
- Innovations in measurement and assessment, including developing and validating culturally relevant assessment tools, novel methodologies for capturing health equity data, use of big data and machine learning to understand and address health disparities.

- Innovative strategies for integrating implementation science at the outset of research.

Clinical Practice:

- Innovative interventions for diverse populations, such as developing culturally competent interventions, case studies highlighting successful implementation of health-equity focused treatments, and telehealth/digital tools for enhancing access to care to underserved communities.
- Trauma-informed care in pediatric psychology: Integrating trauma-informed practices into pediatric settings, addressing the psychological impact of systemic racism and socioeconomic disparities, best practices for supporting children and families experiencing chronic stress.
- Enhancing provider training and competence: Cultural humility and bias reduction for healthcare providers; training on health equity and social determinants of health, mentorship programs for underrepresented groups in pediatric psychology.

Advocacy for Health Equity:

- Innovative strategies for pediatric psychologists to engage in policy advocacy, for example, case studies on successful advocacy initiatives for children's health, strategies for building coalitions to address systemic barriers to health equity.
- Analyzing the effects of healthcare policies on child health outcomes, policy recommendations for promoting pediatric psychological health
- Efforts to expand perspectives on pediatric health equity beyond the U.S., such as comparative analyses of health equity policies across countries, lessons learned from international health equity initiatives, and collaborative efforts to address global pediatric health challenges.
- Training and mentorship of future pediatric psychology advocates, such as curriculum development for advocacy training in pediatric psychology training programs, workshops on effective communication with policymakers and stakeholders.

Thank you in advance for your efforts to submit your science to SPPAC 2025. The conference is made great by all of the outstanding work of our amazing membership!

All proposals will be peer-reviewed. The submission categories for SPPAC 2025 are:

- **Workshops**
- **Scientific Symposia**
- **Professional Development Seminars**
- **Poster Abstracts** (accepted poster abstracts will be presented during an assigned poster session)
- **Paper Abstracts** (accepted paper abstracts will be presented by the first author in a scientific symposium.)

Accepted poster and paper abstracts will be published in a supplemental issue of the Journal of Pediatric Psychology.

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.

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. 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).
2. Please note if the submission represents a collaborative effort among members of a Special Interest Group (SIG) or across SIGs.
3. Please specify the learner level (beginner, intermediate, and/or advanced).
4. Three references for the abstract listed above from the last 10 years. Please note the presenters do not need to be co-authors for the references.
5. Presenter information including full names, degrees, and affiliations.
6. Individual abstracts from each contributing speaker (max 300 words each).
7. Three to five specific learning objectives that participants will achieve from the session (see Learning Objective Guidance on page 6).

Please review the scoring guidelines on page 6. Preference will be given to proposals relevant to the conference theme, are inter-institutional collaborations, and 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. A description of the proposed session, including the purpose, structure, and relevance to the conference theme (max 400 words).

2. Please note if the submission represents a collaborative effort among members of a SIG or across SIGs.
3. Please specify the learner level (beginner, intermediate, and/or advanced).
4. 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).
5. 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).
6. Three references for the abstract listed above from the last 10 years in APA format. Please note the presenters do not need to be co-authors for the references.
7. Presenter information including full names, degrees, and affiliations.
8. 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).
9. Three to five specific learning objectives (see Learning Objective Guidance on page 6).

Please review the scoring guidelines on page 6. 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.

Workshop Guidelines

We invite proposals for 150-minute (2.5 hour), or 180-minute (3.0 hour for ethics), workshops that explore a topic in-depth in order to enhance pediatric psychologists' skills in advocacy, leadership, research, and/or clinical practice. Presenters must have established expertise in the topic area. Workshops will be held in the morning of Thursday, April 3 and the afternoon of Saturday, April 5.

Workshop submissions must include:

1. A summary of the proposed 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. Please note if the submission represents a collaborative effort among members of a SIG or across SIGs.
5. Please specify if there is a need to limit the session to a certain number of attendees and provide a rationale.

6. Please specify the learner level (beginner, intermediate, and/or advanced).
7. Three references for the abstract listed above from the last 10 years in APA format. Please note the presenters do not need to be co-authors for the references.
8. Three to five specific learning objectives (see Learning Objective Guidance on page 6).

Please review the scoring guidelines on page 6. 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 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 2025.

All abstract submissions must include the following headings:

1. Introduction (background, objective).
2. Methods (sample, procedures, measures, analysis).
3. Results (primary findings).
4. Conclusions (implications).
5. Three references for the abstract listed above from the last 10 years in APA format. Please note the presenters do not need to be co-authors for the references.

Please review the scoring guidelines on page 6.

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).

Scoring of Submissions:

All submissions will be reviewed based on the following 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.
- Incorporation of patient and family voices.

Learning Objectives Guidelines

All oral presentation proposals (scientific symposia, professional development seminars, 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. **Learning objectives 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

Presenter Profile

The presenter's profile will ask questions about each presenting author. Answers to these questions are not used in any acceptance decisions.

For questions about conference programming, please email:

Lauren E. Harrison, PhD, SPPAC 2025 Conference Chair: leharr@stanford.edu

Colleen Cullinan, PhD, SPPAC 2025 Conference Co-Chair: Colleen.cullinan@ucsf.edu

For questions related to abstract submission or conference logistics please email info@pedpsych.org.