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# 2026 Mental Health Specialty Conference Call for Papers

**Deadline: April 28, 2026**

AOTA invites you to share your innovations and experiences by submitting a proposal.

## Instructions for Submission

- Proposals may be submitted through 11:59 PM PDT April 28, 2026
- Proposals will only be accepted through the online process.
- All presenters, for each proposal submitted, must have a valid email address. If you are submitting multiple abstracts, please use the same email address for all submissions. Use an email address that you regularly check.
- We recommend that you first develop your proposal using the [template provided](#). This will allow you to view detailed criteria, spell check your work, and ensure that you are within the noted character limits. Then copy and paste the information into the online process. This will ensure greater accuracy. Please make sure that spelling and credentials are accurate.
- Complete the required fields in all sections. You may access the submission process as needed to complete your proposal until the deadline.
- Incomplete proposals will be deleted after the deadline. Please do NOT create a new submission if you have made errors. Simply edit and continue with the existing proposal.
- **Review the scoring rubric prior to submission.**

## Tips for Submission

- Read through the instructions and view the template prior to creating an account in the system. This will allow you to familiarize yourself with the requirements.
- Save as you go! Even if you have not filled out all of the required fields, click Save at the bottom of each section to save the information you have entered.
- An exceeded character count will paste into the text box but will not save. Please refer to the character counter below the text box.
- All emails come from [conference@aota.org](mailto:conference@aota.org). To ensure you receive all communication, please be sure to add this email to your approved senders list or have your IT department add it.

If you have any technical issues with the submission site, please email [conference@aota.org](mailto:conference@aota.org).

## Proposal Type

Supplementary template is available at <https://www.aota.org/events/call-for-papers>.

## Session Formats

- **Short Course:** 1-hour session with reflective time for attendees. The reflective component may include: a group discussion, Q&A, writing exercise, or case study.
  - Of those completed submissions: **(16)** Short Courses with **(1)** Keynote and **(1)** Closing will be chosen
- **Poster:** Posters will be on display on a tabletop during a designated 1-hour period. Presenters are required to be with their poster for the entire 1-hour block of time. Poster submissions allow for reflective component in their format.
  - **(15)** Completed poster submissions will be chosen

NOTE: If you indicated an interest in being considered for a poster presentation, your submission may be reviewed for that format and accepted.
- **Conversations That Matter:** 50-minute facilitated discussion on a specific occupational therapy-related topic. Topic areas can cover academia, practice, or general professional issues. No AV is provided. The moderator should briefly introduce the topic and then allow participants to discuss and share. These sessions are not traditional lectures; they are facilitated discussions.
  - **(5-10)** depending on space restrictions) Completed CTM submissions will be chosen

## Level of Material

Specialty conferences are designed for advanced practitioners with more than 5 years of experience.

- **Intermediate** level is geared to practitioners with a general working knowledge of current practice trends and literature related to the subject matter. Focus is on increasing knowledge and competent application of the subject matter.
- **Advanced** level is geared to practitioners with a comprehensive understanding of the subject matter based on current theories and standards of practice, as well as current literature and research. Focus is on recent advances and trends, and/or research applications. It is expected that a high-level of participation by attendees is encouraged during this session.

## Audiovisual Equipment

The standard room set for Short Course includes:

- 1-Laptop with DVD drive, Microsoft Office, audio, hard-wired Internet, and audio amplified to the audience
- 1-Handheld wireless podium microphone
- 1-Wired floor microphone
- 1-Wired head table microphone
- 1-LCD projector and screen
- Slide Advancer

Speakers are not permitted to use their own devices and must use the setup provided.

There is no AV for Conversations that Matter.

## Submission Template

Complete the corresponding proposal template provided at [www.aota.org/callforpapers](http://www.aota.org/callforpapers) to assist you with gathering your information. Be sure to proofread and use the spell check feature. This will provide you with a saved copy of your submission prior to entering the information online and allows you to copy and paste your responses.

Note: Character count is used, NOT word count.

- An exceeded character count will paste into the text box but will not save. Please refer to the character counter below the text box.