
INSPIRE 2027

Call for Papers Instructions

Deadline: May 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 PT, May 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.
- Each submitter is limited to one submission.
- We recommend that you first develop your proposal using the [templates 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.
- Speakers and authors are responsible for maintaining their own [profiles](#). Please make sure you have the email linked to the AOTA account for all speakers and authors to ensure the correct account is linked to the submission. If a speaker or author is not an AOTA member, you will have the opportunity to add them to the system during the submission process.
- 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.**

Pro Tips

- Please read through the instructions and view the template before 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 the required fields, click Save at the bottom of each tab to save the information you entered.
- If the character count exceeds the limit, it will be pasted into the text box but will not be saved. Please refer to the character counter below the text box.
- All emails come from noreply-ai@communitybrands.com. To ensure you receive all communication, please 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

Session Type

Supplementary templates and resources are available at <https://www.aota.org/events/call-for-papers>.

- **General** – advanced occupational therapy practice, education, or program development.

- **Research** – supports occupational therapy as science-driven and evidence-based and, therefore, must include data.
- **Technology** – advanced-level hands-on tech labs that highlight service delivery skills featuring actionable technology content for occupational therapy practitioners in the field.

Session Formats

Format varies based on Session Type and requirements differ for each format.

Format	Type		
	General	Research	Technology
Pre-Conference Institute	✓	✓	
Workshop	✓		
Short Course	✓		
Student	✓		
Tech Lab			✓
Clinical Application of Research		✓	
Poster	✓	✓	

To allow others the opportunity to present at INSPIRE 2027, we are limiting submissions to **two (2) per Submitter**. The individual submitting may add someone different as Primary Speaker (person who receives all communication regarding any proposal); therefore, it is possible to be the Primary Speaker on multiple submissions. It is also possible to still be a part of the submission as a Co-Presenter (additional speaker on the session) or Contributing Author (supported research for the session but is not involved in presenting).

- **Pre-Conference Institute:** 6-hour session held April 7, 2027. A reflective period must be included. We will accept up to 15 institutes for INSPIRE 2027.
- **Workshop:** 3-hour session with reflective period for attendees with comprehensive understanding of subject matter. **Intermediate and Advanced-level content only. NOTE: Workshops are only scheduled in the morning, 8:00 am – 11:00 am.**
- **2027 slots** – 30 sessions
- **Short Course:** 1-hour session with reflective time for attendees.
 - **2027 slots** – 380 sessions
- **Student:** 50-minute session geared towards a student-only audience.
 - **2027 slots** – 10 sessions
- **Tech Lab:** 1-hour session. Tech Lab sessions are a hands-on, interactive exploration of high- and low-technology products to enhance client participation in occupations across the lifespan.
 - **2027 slots** – 8 sessions
- **Clinical Application of Research:** *Research submissions will be grouped together as a Clinical Application of Research panel. Total session length is 60 minutes. Each participant will present for 15 minutes, with 15 additional minutes for facilitated discussion.
 - **2027 slots** – 48 sessions
- **Poster:** Displayed on an 8' wide x 4' tall bulletin board. Posters will be on display during a designated 2-hour period. Presenters are required to be with their poster for the entire 2-hour block of time. NOTE: If you indicated an interest in being considered for a poster presentation, your submission may be reviewed for that format and accepted.

*AOTA will create all panels. You are submitting as a paper only.

Program selection will be conducted by a committee comprised of specifically identified volunteers with expertise in the topic areas.

Level of Material

- **Introductory** level is geared to practitioners with little or no knowledge of the subject matter. Focus is on providing general introductory information.
- **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.

Primary Topic Category

Each proposal will require a selection of one Primary Topic Category that best describes the proposal. AOTA reserves the right to change submitter's Primary Topic Category selection.

- Academic Education (includes Fieldwork Education)
- Advocacy
- Children & Youth
- Coding & Billing/Payment Policy
- Developmental Disabilities
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
- General & Professional Issues
- Home & Community Health
- Innovative & Evolving Practice
- International
- Mental Health & Behavioral Health
- Productive Aging
- Rehabilitation & Disability
- Sensory Integration & Processing
- Work & Industry

Secondary Topic Category

- Depending on the Proposal Type, submitters will decide on one Secondary Topic Category that best describes the proposal. AOTA reserves the right to change submitter's Secondary Topic Category selection.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Academic Education • Administration & Management • Advocacy • Children & Youth • Chronic Conditions • Coding & Billing • Cognition • Developmental Disabilities • Diversity, Equity & Inclusion • Driving & Community Mobility • Early Childhood • Entrepreneurship • Environmental Modifications | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ethics • Evidence-Based Practice & Knowledge Translation • Feeding, Eating, & Swallowing • Fellowship • Fieldwork Education • General & Professional Issues • Physical Rehabilitation • Primary Care • Private Practice • Productive Aging • Quality & Value Based Care • Rehabilitation & Disability |
|---|--|

- Research
- School Systems
- Sensory Integration & Processing
- Technology
- Telehealth & Virtual Services
- Women's Health
- Work & Industry
- Gerontology
- Hand & Upper Extremity
- Health & Wellness
- Home & Community Health
- Innovative & Evolving Practice
- International
- Leadership
- Low Vision
- Mental Health & Behavioral Health
- Occupational Science
- Occupation-Based Practice
- Oncology
- OT/OTA Wellbeing
- Payment Policy
- Physical Rehabilitation
- Primary Care
- Private Practice
- Productive Aging
- Quality & Value Based Care
- Rehabilitation & Disability
- Research
- School Systems
- Sensory Integration & Processing
- Technology
- Telehealth & Virtual Services
- Women's Health
- Work & Industry

Audiovisual Equipment

The standard room set for ALL sessions (except Poster and Tech Lab sessions) includes:

- 1-Laptop with DVD drive, Microsoft Office, audio, hard-wired Internet, and audio amplified to 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.

Submission Templates

Complete the corresponding proposal template provided, at www.ota.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 be pasted into the text box but will not save. Please refer to the character counter below the text box.

Proposal Selection Process

Proposals are reviewed online by your colleagues in a blind peer review that will take place from June 9 – 29, 2026. See the chart below for the minimum number of blind reviews per session type. Only reviewers who have demonstrated competency in research will review research-related proposals. You must have an earned a research doctorate to review research proposals.

Reviewer Requirements

- All reviewers must have at least 5 years of experience in OT/OTA education
- Research reviewers must have an advanced academic degree that focuses on conducting original research and contributing new knowledge to a specific field of study. Examples of research doctorates include the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD), Doctor of Education (EdD), and Doctor of Science (ScD); this does not include an OTD.
- Depending on the quantity of reviewers who sign up to review, the average number of proposals to review will be 15-20.

Cut Off Scores

Reviewer scores for each proposal are totaled and all proposals that score at or above the cutoff are considered for scheduling in the Conference program. Program selection will be conducted by a committee comprised of specifically identified volunteers with expertise in the topic areas. Final selection and scheduling of conference proposals is based on a number of factors that help to establish a diverse and balanced program.

NOTE: Each proposal is considered based on its own merit, not in comparison to other submissions.

Type	Min. no of reviews	Cutoff Score	Max. Score
General	4	37	45
Research	3	33	45
Technology	3	37	45

General Proposals are in the areas of occupational therapy practice, education, or program development. The learning objectives should be clearly stated and relate to improved understanding or application of knowledge relevant to practice and education. The plan of presentation and the synopsis of the content should indicate how the learning objectives will be fulfilled.

Clinical Application of Research proposals support occupational therapy as being science-driven and evidence based. Proposals must focus on research projects that will contribute to the occupational therapy body of knowledge, articulate and promote the distinct value of occupational therapy, and demonstrate rigor in design. Priority will be given to the following identified research priorities (AOTF, 2016):

- Health behaviors to prevent and manage chronic conditions
- Functional cognition
- Safety and injury prevention in home, clinical, and community settings
- Technology and environmental supports in home and community
- Development and transitions for individuals and families
- Emotional and physiological influences
- Family and caregiver needs
- Health care experience: Access, care coordination, and utilization

NOTE: Only completed research will be considered. Research work that is in progress must have preliminary data and preliminary analysis.