

2026 ACS Surgical Simulation Summit

ACS
AMERICAN COLLEGE
OF SURGEONS

MARCH 12-13 / CHICAGO, IL

Annual ACS Surgical Simulation Summit Abstract Submission Guidelines

Present your research at the premiere meeting for simulation-based surgical education

SUBMISSION DEADLINE:

Tuesday, August 5, 2025, at 11:59 pm Central Time

Key Dates

- Tuesday, August 5, 2025 – Submission Deadline
 - Revisions and late submissions are **not accepted** after the deadline.
- November 1, 2025 - Notification of Acceptance
- December 2, 2025 – Registration for the Summit Opens
- March 12 – 13, 2026 – ACS Surgical Simulation Summit (**in person, onsite in Chicago**)

Highlights

- Opportunity to present your work at the premiere meeting for simulation-based surgical education.
- Collaborative research studies and research representing all surgical specialties and all disciplines that utilize simulation are encouraged.
- Submissions from international researchers and medical students are encouraged.
- Two abstract categories to choose from – Completed Original Research and In-Progress Original Research
- Three types of awards – Best in Show Award for Best Podium Presentation, three Posters of Distinction, and complimentary registration awarded to the highest scored abstract from a medical student.
- All abstracts *presented* as a podium or poster presentation will be posted on the ACS website in an electronic abstract publication and may be cited on your CV and in academic publications.
- Manuscripts from podium presenters (Completed Research only) are invited and considered for publication in the journal *Surgery*.

If you have any **technical** issues or questions, please contact Technical Support at 217-398-1792 or acs@support.ctimeetingtech.com. Technical Support is available Monday through Friday, 8:00 am-5:00 pm Central Time. Any other questions can be sent to edinstitutes@facs.org.

Submission Information

All those involved in the delivery of simulation-based surgical education and training are invited to submit an abstract containing a concise summary of their research. All submitted abstracts must be original works that have not been previously published and will be presented for the first time at the 2026 ACS Surgical Simulation Summit.

Two Categories

Completed Original Research

Abstracts in this category should present results of original research in simulation-based surgical education or implementation of innovative simulation-based surgical education methods. Your abstract must include an introduction, methods, results, and conclusion. Abstracts that do not describe research methods and present study results will not be considered. Statements such as "data will be presented" or "results will be shown" should not be included in submitted abstracts.

In-Progress Original Research

Abstracts in this category may be in the development phase or in early stages of implementation. Your abstract must include an introduction, methods, preliminary results, and next steps. Special consideration will be given to abstracts that promise completed scholarly work.

Topics

Abstracts may be submitted on any topic related to simulation-based surgical education, but we are specifically calling for abstracts on the following topics:

Curriculum Development	Patient Safety	Surgical Outcomes
Faculty Development	Program Evaluations	Teaching Methods
Interprofessional Education	Quality Improvement	Team Wellness
Learner/Skill Assessments	Simulator Development	Other

There is no limit to the number of abstracts you may submit, however a single author may present no more than three abstracts (see “Presenting Author” section below). There is no fee for submission.

Abstract Specifications

1. **Maximum number of authors:** 10 (including the lead author)
2. **Word limit:** 300 words for entire abstract, **not** including the title, author string, or table/figure.
3. **Structure:** Introduction, Methods, Results, and Conclusions
4. **Table or figure criteria:**
 - One table or figure per abstract
 - No identifying information for authors or institutions
 - Tables must not contain more than five columns or ten rows.
 - Figures must be BMP, GIF, JPG, or PNG.
5. No identifying information should be included in the abstract title, body, or attached tables/figures, as all abstracts are reviewed on a blind basis.

Reviewers will score abstracts following a [set rubric](#). All authors are expected to adhere to the [ACS Statement of Integrity](#).

No changes can be made to the title, author string, or abstract body and table/figures after August 5, 2025.

Disclosures

In accordance with the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) guidelines, all named authors must complete an ACS disclosure statement during the submission process to disclose all financial relationships with any commercial interest. Submitters may not complete disclosures on their co-authors' behalf. **All authors must log in to the submission platform to complete the disclosure statement by the submission deadline: August 5, 2025.** Authors may have up to 48 hours past the submission deadline to finalize disclosure information. Any submissions with incomplete disclosures after this time will not be reviewed. **Any potential conflicts of interest as reported in your financial disclosure will be reviewed by the Program Chair. If the conflict cannot be resolved, or if the author is from an [ineligible company](#), the abstract will be rejected.**

Presentation Information

The ACS-AEI Program Committee will decide the appropriate presentation format for each accepted abstract. Presentation formats are as follows:

- Podium presentation: 10-minute presentation during one of the Paper Sessions. Abstracts that are selected for a podium presentation require authors to provide at least two names of potential discussants to AEI staff in early December.
- Poster presentation: Authors will be asked to stand next to their posters and field questions during the “Meet the Authors Poster Session.”

If accepted, you are expected to be present at the Summit IN PERSON at the time assigned to you by the ACS-AEI Program Committee. The Program Committee does not reschedule presentations after acceptance notifications are sent. If any conflicts arise, please alert us if a co-author will be presenting on your behalf, as we will need to extend an invitation to them. If no co-authors are available to present at the assigned time, the abstract must be withdrawn at least 2 weeks prior to the meeting. If the authors fail to present for their oral or poster presentation without prior notice, a letter requesting an explanation will be sent to the senior author or departmental leadership.

Presenting Author

The Program Committee guideline is that a single author may present no more than three abstracts. If an author has more than three abstracts accepted, they may only present three and the others must be presented by a co-author. **Only authors listed in the string of co-authors at the time of submission are eligible to present.** Authors may not be added after the submission deadline of August 5. **Presenter changes must be communicated to ACS at ed institutes@facs.org.**

Registration and Reimbursement

All presenters are required to register and pay the [applicable registration fee](#) for the meeting. Registration opens in December. No discounts will be given to presenters who cannot attend the full 2-day meeting. ACS does not provide reimbursement or travel scholarships to presenters.

We appreciate your willingness to share your research and contribute to the field of simulation-based surgical education and training.

Withdrawing

Before August 5:

You may edit or delete your abstract within the submission site. Deleting the submission will withdraw it from consideration.

After August 5:

Your abstract cannot be altered after it has been submitted. There is no penalty for withdrawing your abstract from being presented; however, please let us know as soon as possible.

If your abstract will be published or presented *on a national or international platform* prior to the 2026 ACS Surgical Simulation Summit, March 12 – 13, you must withdraw your abstract.

Withdrawal requests should be submitted to edinstitutes@facs.org.

Publication and Manuscript Submission

All abstracts presented as a podium and poster presentation will be posted on the ACS website in an electronic abstract publication and may be cited on your CV and in academic publications.

Requirements for Authors of Completed Research

Authors selected to present their completed research as a podium (paper) presentation are required to submit a manuscript draft to the AEI Program at edinstitutes@facs.org by **February 17, 2026**. This requirement is to help the discussants prepare for the discussion of your paper during the Surgical Simulation Summit. After the meeting, you are invited to revise your first draft based on the feedback received from the discussant and the audience and submit the updated manuscript to the journal *Surgery* using its Elsevier submission portal. Your submitted manuscript will be peer-reviewed for consideration for publication in *Surgery*. All questions regarding conference manuscripts should be directed to ACS staff member Gyusung Lee, PhD at glee@facs.org.

Requirements for Authors of In-Progress Research

Authors selected to present their in-progress research as a podium (paper) presentation will not be required to submit a manuscript draft to the AEI Program. The discussants of those papers will review the abstracts in advance to help them prepare for the discussion of your paper during the Surgical Simulation Summit.

Awards

Best in Show Award

All abstracts presented in a Paper Session are eligible to receive the Best in Show Award, which is awarded to the highest scored presentation. During the meeting, presentations are scored by pre-selected judges based on the following criteria: hypothesis; methods; conclusion; novelty of idea; and overall impression. The winner is announced at the end of the meeting and receives complimentary registration to next year's Summit.

Posters of Distinction

After a blind review by our Abstract Reviewers, the top scoring Posters will receive the designation of Posters of Distinction. Special recognition will be given to the authors in the Program Book and during the Poster Rounds session.

Medical Student Award

After a blind review by our Abstract Reviewers, the top scoring abstract from a medical student will be awarded complimentary registration for the 2026 meeting. Notification will be sent to the recipient in December.

There is no separate application method for any of the awards.