ASPEN Nutrition Science & Practice Conference

2027 Call for Abstracts

Table of Contents

Section	Page
1. Key Dates, Abstract Types, and Submission Site	2
2. Abstract Submission Options	3
3. Abstract Methodology Types and Categories	4
4. Author and Disclosure/Off-Label Information	5
5. Abstract Scoring Criteria	6
6. Abstract Writing Standards	7
7. Abstract Topics	9
8. Abstract Publication and Copyright	10
9. Original Abstract Research Awards	11
10. Presentation Type	14
11. Abstract Selection Process	15
12. Resources	16

For questions on abstract submission, contact education@nutritioncare.org

Section 1: Key Dates, Abstract Types, and Submission Site

Submission Opens: Wednesday, June 3, 2026
Submission Closes: Tuesday, August 18, 2026, at 11:59 PM Eastern Time
Acceptance Notifications: October 2026

Abstract Types and Submission Fees*
Student Abstract - Please select the student abstract type if the **presenting author** of the abstract has a student status (is a student) at the time of abstract submission.

Definition: ASPEN identifies a student as an individual who is a full-time undergraduate or graduate student, as defined by the individual's institution. If a submitter is unsure if they are considered a full-time student, they must check with their institution for clarity.

Trainees, those in an internship, residency, postdoctoral, or other fellowship program, are NOT considered students and must submit a non-student abstract. Any individual who submits a student abstract and is found to be ineligible, given the student criteria, will have their abstract withdrawn without a refund of the submission fee.

- Student Abstract Early Bird Submission Fee: $55 until July 28, 2026, at 11:59 PM ET
- Student Abstract Standard Submission Fee: $105 from July 29 - August 18, 2026, at 11:59 PM ET

Non-student Abstract - Please select the non-student abstract type if the **presenting author** of the abstract does not have a student status (is not a student) at the time of abstract submission.

- Non-student Abstract Early Bird Submission Fee: $75 until July 28, 2026, at 11:59 PM ET
- Non-student Abstract Standard Submission Fee: $125 from July 29 - August 18, 2026, at 11:59 PM ET

Submission fees are administrative fees and are not meant to be punitive in nature. Submission fees are **NOT refundable for any reason*.

NOTE: There is only one abstract submission period. All abstracts must be submitted by August 18, 2026, at 11:59 PM ET to be considered. There will be no late-breaking submission period.

Registration & Travel Fees- ASPEN will make every effort to notify all abstract authors of their acceptance status prior to the early-bird conference registration deadline. You are encouraged, however, to register for the ASPEN Nutrition Science & Practice Conference when registration opens. If the early-bird deadline has passed, ASPEN may extend it for abstract authors with accepted abstracts. Individuals who have an abstract accepted into the conference program as a poster or oral presentation are responsible for their own travel and conference registration expenses.

Submit an Abstract Today!

Please note that abstract submitters must create a new account for the submission site each year. Submitter and/or author information is not transferred from year to year.

Section 2: Abstract Submission Options

Original Abstracts - *unpublished basic or clinical research and data, practice abstracts, retrospective studies, vignettes, or case studies.* Research methodology may range from prospective, randomized trials and systematic reviews to quality improvement projects and unique case reports. Depending on the review score, these abstracts may be presented in poster sessions or oral paper sessions. Original abstracts are eligible for Original Abstract Research Awards: Harry M. Vars and Promising Investigator, Research Trainee, Best International Abstract, Best of ASPEN Nutrition Science & Practice Conference, and Abstracts of Distinction. **You must OPT-IN to be considered for the Vars/ Promising Investigator, Trainee, and International Awards.**

Encore Ab*stracts -* *Encore Abstracts are those that have been presented previously at another conference or which have been published (or will be published) 6 months prior to the abstract submission deadline.* These abstracts will be presented as posters and are not eligible for Original Abstract Research Awards, except Abstract of Distinction.

International Abstracts – *submitted original or encore abstracts, in which the research took place, and the investigator resides in a country other than the United States.* In addition to the awards noted above, Original International Abstracts are eligible for the International Abstract Research Awards: Best International Abstract or International Abstract of Distinction. Encore Abstracts are eligible only for the International Abstract of Distinction Award. **Submitters must opt-in during online abstract submission to be eligible for awards.**

Section 3: Abstract Methodology Types and Categories

You will need to select the single methodology category that most closely represents your abstract.

Research Methodology	Examples and Definitions
Basic Science	Fundamental or bench research. *In vitro* studies or animal research that provides the foundation of knowledge for applied science.
Clinical Science	Translates basic science into new approaches for patient care. Observational or interventional clinical trials, registry-driven analyses, qualitative studies.
Education, Quality Control & Improvement	Education or quality improvement programs, non-scientific surveys, programmatic communication.
Systematic Review with or without Meta-Analysis	Systematic review of research on a given topic and design where results are analyzed and evaluated. Presents current state of knowledge of the topic. Scientific and statistical analysis of combined results of research on a given topic.
Clinical Case Report	A clinical vignette or case report demonstrating knowledge gained from clinical practice. Case reports should include information on how the case relates to the current state of the literature.

All ASPEN Nutrition Science & Practice Conference abstracts must present qualitative or quantitative data that are directly relevant to the topic of the abstract. **Abstracts describing only methodologies, concepts, or other topics will not be accepted without accompanying data or results.** Case studies are exempt from the requirement for extensive data but must be unique, providing learning points or unusual clinical presentations.

Research Agenda - ASPEN's Research Agenda will familiarize abstract authors with investigative priorities established by our Society. Authors are encouraged to be aware of and, when possible, submit abstracts reflecting these core research areas. Please note that this is not a requirement, but rather a statement of ASPEN's priority research interests.

Section 4: Author and Disclosure/Off-Label Information

Author Personal Information - When submitting, the following information will be required of each author:

- Prefix
- First and Last Name
- Credentials/Degree (e.g. MD, PhD, RD, RN, RPh, PharmD, MBBS, etc.)
- Position/Job Title (must be submitted in English)
- Organization (must be submitted in English)
- Business address including City, State/Province, Country
- Email Address
- Conflict of Interest Disclosure Information (must be entered into the abstract submission site)
- Primary Discipline
- ASPEN Membership Status (yes or no)

Author Disclosures

Conflict of interest and financial disclosure information is required for **all authors** at the time of submission of the abstract. If any of the abstract authors have financial relationships with any ineligible company (definition below) within the past 24 months, it needs to be reported.

** **An ineligible company** is any entity whose primary business is producing, marketing, selling, re-selling, or distributing healthcare products used by or on patients. For specific examples of ineligible companies, visit accme.org/standards.*

There is no minimum financial threshold. All financial relationships, regardless of the amount or potential relevance of each relationship to the education or event, should be disclosed.

The following needs to be submitted for each financial relationship:

- **Ineligible Company name.**
- **Nature of the financial relationship**. (Examples of financial relationships include employee, researcher, consultant, advisor, speaker, independent contractor, including contracted research, royalties or patent beneficiary, executive role, and ownership interest)
- **Financial relationship status.** (ongoing or terminated)
    - If terminated, the date of termination.

Providing accurate disclosure information is mandatory, and failure to do so will result in an inability to participate in the conference programming in any capacity.

If the abstract discusses off-label uses (product applications that are not approved by the U.S. FDA) of licensed pharmaceutical or medical device products, the authors will need to identify the product and the nature of off-label use.

The submitting author is responsible for submitting a disclosure on behalf of all authors listed in the submission. The submitting author can utilize the Conflict of Interest Downloadable Form to collect the necessary details from all authors to allow for ease of entry of information into the submission platform.

Please note that all author financial disclosures must be submitted through the online abstract submission system by the submitting author.

Section 5: Abstract Scoring Criteria

Relevance and uniqueness of the study or presentation to the field of nutrition therapy and/or metabolic support. Authors are encouraged to submit abstracts that are:

- Submitted in English (required)
- Grammar, syntax, and spelling are accurate
- Address unique or emerging nutritional issues
- Contribute new information to the field
- Show strong applicability to or improvement of nutrition therapy practice or metabolic support
- Clarity of the introduction, hypothesis, or purpose
- Quality of the research design and methodology: if relevant - the hypothesis is clear; methods are clear & appropriate
- Sample size is sufficient to validate conclusions; measures were taken to control for threats to validity and reliability
- Case studies and vignettes are exempt from the requirement for extensive data; however, they must be unique, providing learning points or unusual clinical presentations
- Data is valid and sufficient to form conclusions; if relevant, statistical analysis is appropriate; study was completed
- Conclusion is relevant to the data
- **Abstract is free of promotional material and is not commercial in nature. Brand, company and institution names are NOT mentioned in the title but may be used ONCE in the methodology section, no exception. Submitted abstracts that do not follow this requirement will not be accepted for presentation.**
- Complex terms are written out first and then abbreviated using generally accepted abbreviations to avoid confusion. Submitted abstracts are expected to adhere to the ASPEN Definitions of Terms, Style, and Conventions Guidance. For convenience, lipid injectable emulsions (ILE) are abbreviated per the ASPEN ILE abbreviation list.

Section 6: Abstract Writing Standards

The presenting author is required to attend the ASPEN Nutrition Science & Practice Conference if the abstract is accepted for oral or poster presentation. This is particularly important for those who wish to opt in for consideration for the Vars Award. No financial stipends are available to cover expenses.

Abstract Character Count - A maximum of **3780 characters,** approximately **500 words**, including spaces and punctuation is allowed. This does not include the title, author/institution list, or tables/figures.

Accuracy, Grammar, Spelling - If accepted, YOUR ABSTRACT WILL BE PUBLISHED AS SUBMITTED. *You are 100% responsible for spelling, grammar, and scientific accuracy. Changes cannot be made to submitted abstracts for any reason after the submission site closes.*

Abstract Revisions - You may log into the submission site or type the URL https://www.abstractscorecard.com/cfp/submit/login.asp?EventKey=KRLZNKKV into your browser as many times as necessary to complete the submission process until the submission deadline. ASPEN will only review your abstract if you have completed the submission process, including the payment step, by the submission deadline.

Tables and Figures – It is important that you follow these instructions as well as those on the submission site. The maximum total number of combined tables and figures you may submit is **4**, with a maximum of **2** simple tables. DO NOT exceed your figure limit if you are submitting tables. Do not try to put multiple complex tables into a single image file. The tables/figures are not included in the overall abstract character count. Please utilize the following upload format:

Table Upload Format (maximum of 2 tables):

- Tables must be submitted in one of the following formats: .jpg, .png, .gif, .bmp. Please note that if a GIF is submitted, it will not be published as an animated GIF.
- Create tables using the Tables function in Word in Times New Roman, 12-point font. When exporting tables to image format, they must be 600 dpi for print reproduction.
- When converting to the appropriate image file types, please crop out unnecessary white space and remove red underlining caused by spell check tools.
- Tables should NOT include art or illustrations, shading, or underlining.
- Do not display product labels on tables; please use generic terms only.
- Remember to title and number your tables, for reference in the body of your abstract (e.g., Table 1, Table 2).
- When uploading your table, there will be a field to enter a table title and table note/caption. Please utilize these fields instead of including the title and caption in the uploaded table. This will ensure all table details are printed properly. Table titles will be printed above the table, and notes/captions will be printed below the table.
  Example published table: Example Table

Figure Upload Format (maximum of 4 if the tables task is not utilized):

- Figures must be submitted in one of the following formats: .jpg, .png, .gif, .bmp. Please note that if a GIF is submitted, it will not be published as an animated GIF.
- Images (e.g., photos, illustrations, radiographs, imaging outputs like MRI, ultrasound) must be at least 300 dpi for print reproduction.
- Line art (e.g., flowcharts, graphs, diagrams, scatter plots) must be at least 600 dpi for print reproduction.
- When converting to the appropriate image file types, please crop out unnecessary white space and remove red underlining caused by spell check tools.
- Do not display product labels in figures; please use generic terms only.
- Remember to title and number your figures, for reference in the body of your abstract (e.g., Figure 1, Figure 2).
- When uploading your figure, there will be a field to enter a figure title and figure note/caption. Please utilize these fields instead of including the title and caption in the uploaded image. This will ensure all figure details are printed properly. Figure titles and notes/captions will be printed below the figure.
  Example published figure: Example Image

If your figures/tables do not meet the above requirements, ASPEN will remove them from your abstract and exclude them from publication!

Section 7: Abstract Topics

During the online abstract submission process, you will be asked to categorize your abstract according to ASPEN's six primary abstract topic areas to ensure that your abstract is reviewed appropriately. Please review **Table 1** below, which summarizes these six groups of research in nutrition therapy and metabolism that ASPEN typically accepts. You will need to select two of the topic areas, one as your first choice and one as your second choice. These selections should be the topics that are most relevant to your abstract**. The list is not all-inclusive; you should select the best fit for your abstract.**

Table 1: Abstract Topic Areas

Topic #1 Parenteral Nutrition Therapy	• access devices • acid-base • chronic/degenerative disease and PN • compatibility • complications • diabetes – glucose control	• disease or condition-specific PN • drug–nutrient interaction • fluid-electrolyte • funding & reimbursement • home / alternate site • indications • lipid formulations	• macro & micronutrients • monitoring • nutrition support teams (related to PN) • quality control & improvement (related to PN) • safety • shortages & alternative products • stability
Topic #2 Enteral Nutrition Therapy	• access devices • chronic/degenerative disease and EN • complications • diabetes – glucose control • disease or condition specific EN	• drug-nutrient interactions • formulas • funding & reimbursement • home and alternate site • indications • macro & micronutrients	• monitoring • nutrition support teams (related to EN) • quality control & improvement (related to EN) • reimbursement • safety
Topic #3 Malnutrition and Nutrition Assessment	• body composition • chronic diseases and nutrition related to malnutrition • evidence-based practice	• guidelines • malnutrition • malnutrition coding • payers and malnutrition	• nutrition assessment • nutrition support teams related to malnutrition • quality control & improvement related to malnutrition and nutrition assessment • safety
Topic #4 Critical Care and Critical Health Issues	• burns • cancer • cardiac • critical care • immunodeficiency and immunonutrition	• infection • inflammation • perioperative concerns (glucose control, CHO loading) • pharmaconutrition (related to critical care and critical health issues)	• pulmonary • sepsis • trauma • wounds • surgery • transplant
Topic #5 GI, Obesity, Metabolic, and Other Nutrition-Related Concepts	• allergy • bariatrics, bariatric surgery, and complications • basic nutrient research • biotics • cholestasis • chronic & degenerative disease • complementary and alternative medicine • education • endocrine	• ethics • exercise physiology • gastroenterology • geriatrics • gut microbiota • hepatic and pancreatic disease and conditions • intestinal failure • IBD • metabolic pathways	• metabolic syndrome • Metabolomics • nutrigenomics • neurological disorders • osteoporosis • pharmacokinetics • pharmaconutrition • pancreatic insufficiency (cystic fibrosis) • renal • short bowel
Topic #6 Pediatric, Neonatal, Pregnancy, and Lactation	• ketogenic diet • NEC • neonatal	• neonatal bone • NICU & PICU • pediatric • pediatric malnutrition	• pediatric short bowel • PNALD • pregnancy & lactation

Section 8: Abstract Publication and Copyright

All accepted abstracts are published online in the *Journal of Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition* (*JPEN*)

Original Research - You will be asked to transfer the abstract copyright to *JPEN*, ASPEN's scientific journal, for your original abstract. All authors must agree to this. Read further instructions in the online system.

Federal Employees - Federal employees may select the box indicating there is no copyright to convey.

Encore Ab*stracts -* *Encore Abstracts are those that have been presented previously at another conference or which have been published (or will be published) 6 months prior to the abstract submission deadline.* These abstracts will be presented as posters and are not eligible for Original Abstract Research Awards, except Abstract of Distinction.

You must provide the name of the conference and the date it was presented and/or the full citation. In either case (published or presented), if you wish to have ASPEN republish your work in *JPEN* online, we must have formal re-publication (re-print) permission from the conference organizer or journal publisher, whoever holds the copyright for the abstract**. It is your responsibility to obtain permission to reprint** your work from the copyright owner and to submit it to ASPEN at elizabetha@nutritioncare.org before the deadline.

If permissions are not received by October 23, 2026, your abstract title, author list, and encore status will be published without the abstract text. If the previous conference/journal did not take copyright, there is an option indicating that you have the right to convey it to ASPEN. ASPEN requires formal approval to re-print the full abstract. For an example of requesting full approval, view the instructions on requesting permission from *JPEN*.

Section 9: Original Abstract Research Awards

Abstract Awards Consideration - You must opt in to be considered for most Original Abstract Research Awards. There are some obligations associated with the awards, and you must certify that you acknowledge and will accept and meet those obligations if your abstract is selected. Detailed information regarding the obligations is included in the online submission system.

ASPEN offers the following awards:

1. Harry M. Vars Award and Promising Investigator Award

General Overview

- Recognizes and honors an Early Career Investigator (within 10 years of completing their terminal research degree or residency training) and must be at a career level of assistant professor (or the equivalent) or lower who has submitted a top-scoring original abstract and demonstrates excellence via a manuscript and oral presentation at the ASPEN Nutrition Science & Practice Conference Premier Paper Session.
- The runner-up to the Vars Award winner is the Promising Investigator Award winner. The selection is based on the same criteria below.

The Vars and Promising Investigator candidates are chosen according to the following

- Candidates have chosen to participate in the Vars competition by opting in on the Abstract Submission Site.
- The candidate has submitted an Original Abstract (abstract represents original work that is presented for the first time at the ASPEN Nutrition Science & Practice Conference). Abstracts presented at other national meetings will not be considered.
- The abstract score as determined by the Abstract Review Committee.
- The quality of the candidate's manuscript including technical writing, level of research innovation as defined by the NIH, and alignment of research to ASPEN.
- Presentation and responses to questions at the ASPEN Nutrition Science & Practice Conference Premier Paper Session.

The presentation evaluation criteria include

- Command of material; expertise commensurate with level of experience and training
- Appropriateness of slides, organization, and format of talk
- Appropriate organization of the presentation in support of the manuscript including the overall timing of the talk
- Clearly states background, relevance, and rationale for the study
- Cleary states hypothesis, study design, and methodology
- Presents data and results relevant to research questions/study aims
- Presents complicated concepts & results at a level understandable to the general audience
- Summarizes appropriately; findings interpreted with appropriate level of caution and understanding of results within the context of current literature
- Presents clearly with obvious preparation and control
- Articulately handles responses, explanations, and discussion during Q/A
- Input from the audience via popular vote

Vars and Promising Investigator candidates must comply with the following criteria and responsibilities

- The presenting author is specified at the time of abstract submission and will attend the ASPEN Nutrition Science & Practice Conference to present their abstract at the Premier Paper Session. The presenter/Vars candidate must be listed as the first author in the author list and if an unexpected event occurs prior to the conference that prevents that Vars candidate from presenting, ASPEN has the authority to make other arrangements on a case-by-case basis.
- The presenting author is an Early Career Investigator (within 10 years of completing their terminal research degree or residency training) and must be at a career level of assistant professor (or the equivalent) or lower and is the primary contributor to the research represented in the abstract.
- The presenter must not have obtained funding (other than career development awards/young investigator awards) from a large governing research body such as the NIH or equivalent in the US or another country. Please check the NIH list to verify the US affiliated awards.
- A manuscript based on the candidate's abstract will be produced and submitted to *JPEN* prior to the stated submission deadline. On behalf of ASPEN and the Research Committee, it is recommended that each candidate submit their manuscript for detailed proofreading to ensure academic and written English proficiency prior to submission to *JPEN*. Failure to meet the deadline will result in disqualification of the candidate.
  Note: Manuscript submission does not guarantee acceptance by *JPEN* editors.
- All candidates will attend the ASPEN Nutrition Science & Practice Conference to present their abstract in the Premier Paper Session.
- All candidates must also attend the Rhoads Lecture and Awards Ceremony in preparation for the Vars Award or Promising Investigator Award recipient announcement. One candidate will receive the Vars Award, and the runner-up will receive the Promising Investigator Award.

2. **Research Trainee Awards –** honors investigators still in training (i.e. students or those in residency, internship, or training programs) who have submitted top-scoring original abstracts to the ASPEN Nutrition Science & Practice Conference.

3. **International Abstract Research Awards –** honors international investigators who have submitted top-scoring original abstracts to the ASPEN Nutrition Science & Practice Conference.

Awards not requiring opt-in:

4. **Abstracts of Distinction –** Awards given to presenting authors of top-scoring abstracts that display extraordinary originality, explore new aspects of a topic, and/or investigate unique aspects of a subject.

5. **Best of ASPEN Nutrition Science & Practice Conference.** For each of ASPEN's six abstract categories (Parenteral, Enteral, Malnutrition/Nutrition Assessment, Critical Care, GI/Metabolic, Pediatric/Neonatal), the presenting author of the top-scoring abstract (non-Vars candidates) will be acknowledged with a certificate and will be published in *JPEN* awarded abstracts. Winning Encore must provide ASPEN with permission to reprint their abstracts from the copyright owner before October 23, 2026.

Abstract Research Award Eligibility					
	Vars/Promising Investigator	Research Trainee	Best International Abstract	Abstracts of Distinction	Best of ASPEN Nutrition Science & Practice Conference
Original Abstract	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes*	Yes*
Encore Abstract	No	No	No	Yes	No

****Submitters whose abstracts are selected as Vars Candidates are not eligible***

For more information, visit ASPEN's Research Awards webpage or type the URL https://nutritioncare.org/conference/submit/abstracts/#h-original-abstract-research-awards into your browser.

Section 10: Presentation Type

You must choose one of the following options as your presentation preference:

- oral presentation
- poster presentation
- either oral or poster

The Abstract Review Committee will try to accommodate preferences, but the final presentation type will be dependent on the score the abstract received. Please note that, if accepted, both oral and poster presentations require travel to the 2027 conference to present in person.

Section 11: Abstract Selection Process

Review and Selection Process - The ASPEN Abstract Review Committee conducts a rigorous peer review of all abstracts submitted. On average, ASPEN accepts approximately 85 - 90 percent of all abstracts submitted. There will be no reconsideration of non-accepted abstracts. Abstracts are selected for poster presentations or oral presentations. There is no refund of the submission fee if the abstract is not accepted.

If your abstract has been accepted for presentation, but you are unable to attend the ASPEN Nutrition Science & Practice Conference, contact Elizabeth Abram at ASPEN as soon as possible at elizabetha@nutritioncare.org. You will have two options: 1) Designate a co-author on the abstract as the new presenting author; or 2) Withdraw the abstract from presentation, not publication; this is only for certain situations. Once all abstracts have been reviewed and decided upon, they can no longer be withdrawn from publication, no exceptions. Refunds will not be issued for abstracts that are withdrawn.

Section 12: Resources

The following resources are available to assist with the preparation of ASPEN Nutrition Science & Practice Conference abstracts.

- Poster Templates and Printing
- ASPEN's Physical Poster Instructions
- ASPEN Research Agenda