
**2020 USPHS SCIENTIFIC & TRAINING SYMPOSIUM:
ADVANCING THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF OUR NATION**

The theme for the 2020 USPHS Scientific and Training Symposium (Symposium) highlights a key aspect of the mission of the U.S. Public Health Service – advancing the health and safety of our nation. One of the many strengths of our service is the vast range of knowledge, skills, and capabilities USPHS Commissioned Corps officers possess and apply to protect and advance public health and safety. This year’s Symposium theme seeks to enhance visibility and awareness of the varied ways PHS officers contribute toward achieving this piece of our mission in our daily work and through partnerships with local, state, tribal, federal, international, and non-governmental organizations among others. Our greatest strength is our officers: dedicated professionals who work in diverse but complementary fields such as disease control and prevention; emergency response; health research; environmental health; health education; regulation of food, drugs, and medical devices; mental health and substance abuse; health care delivery; and global health security – all with the common goal of optimizing the health of our nation and the world.

The Symposium’s Scientific Track Sessions focus on the measurable impacts achieved by USPHS Commissioned Corps officers and our public health partners and how these efforts advance the health and safety of our nation.

Abstract submissions of original research, education, practice, policy changes, program evaluation, or case studies related to the theme are welcome.

The scientific track sessions of the COF Symposium are distinct in that selected presentations must demonstrate adherence to scientific methodology. While any topic relevant to the Symposium theme is welcome, all submitted abstracts must include a background section, structured methodology, and include clear results (or lessons learned), and conclusions or recommendations with for future policy, programs, clinical practice, or research. Abstracts will be scored lower if any of these key components is missing or incomplete. For further guidance, please refer to the **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ): Writing Effective Scientific Abstracts for the USPHS Symposium** document.

The following criteria will be used to review abstracts:

- Relevance to overall Symposium theme
- Quality of learning objectives
- Implications/conclusions for public health policy/program/research/practice
- Innovation/originality
- Overall clarity of abstract

Authors must include three learning objectives related to their abstract. The following tips are recommended to develop strong learning objectives:

1. Identify important concepts you would like the audience to acquire from the presentation.
2. Begin with a measurable action verb (e.g. describe, assess, explain, develop, analyze).
3. Use only one action verb per objective.

Authors must also include three keywords related to their abstract.

Accepted presenters will be assigned a 30-minute time slot, which includes time for questions and discussion. Presenters are required to use PowerPoint slides to accompany their oral presentations. Each presentation is limited to two presenters.

The deadline for abstract submissions is **December 2, 2019**.

If you have any technical issues or questions about the abstract submission process, please contact: symposium@phscof.org.