



AAHB

AMERICAN ACADEMY
of HEALTH BEHAVIOR

Advancing health behavior and translational research

Demystifying the AAHB Abstract Process

HOSTED BY: PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT & MENTORING COUNCIL

SUPPORTED BY: RESEARCH REVIEW COMMITTEE, MARKETING &
COMMUNICATIONS COUNCIL, CONFERENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE

Dr. Erika Thompson

PDMC Chair



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AGENDA:

Conference Overview

Abstract Submission & Review Process

Lightening Talks, Poster Awards, and 3MT

Abstract Writing Do's & Don'ts Panel

Questions & Answers

Dr. Erika Thompson

PDMC Chair



“Health Communication, (Mis-)information, And Behavior: Leveraging Technology For Behavioral Interventions And Health Behavior Research”

April 14-17, 2024

The Desoto Hotel
Savannah, GA

Dr. Eric Walsh-Buhi
Program Chair



“Health Communication, (Mis-)information, And Behavior: Leveraging Technology For Behavioral Interventions And Health Behavior Research”

This meeting aims to explore the latest research and developments in health communication, interventions, misinformation, and health behavior research, particularly regarding digital technologies.

Experts in the field will share their insights on various topics including the impact of social media and misinformation on health behaviors, designing effective health communication campaigns, strategies for addressing misinformation, and evaluating the effectiveness of health communication and behavior change programs.

The conference aims to foster collaboration among researchers to promote evidence-based solutions for improving public health.

Dr. Eric Walsh-Buhi
Program Chair

River boat tours

Ghost tours

Historic sites

Shopping

Dining

Art museums





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Types of Abstracts & Abstract Review Process

Dr. Alyssa Robillard
Research Review Chair

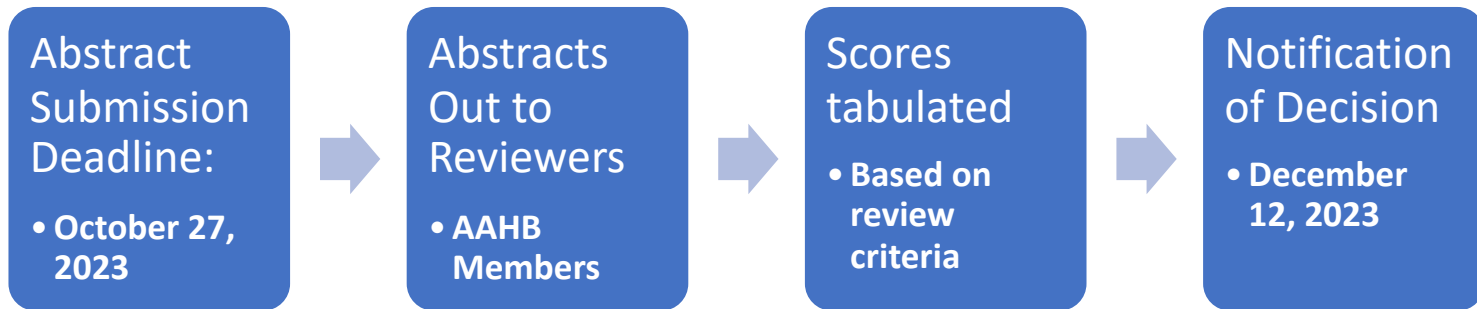


General Reminders

- **Submission Deadline:** October 27, 2023
- Only one call for abstracts this year; NO “late breakers” call for submissions.
- Abstracts related to the meeting theme are encouraged; abstracts related to other health behavior topics are also welcome for submission.
- Word limit: 300 words
- **Presentation Format:** All abstracts are considered for poster presentation by default. During the submission process, you will be asked if you would like your abstract to be considered for a 5-minute "lightning" talk.
- Submissions from members and non-members are welcome.
- Submissions from first-time attendees are encouraged!

Dr. Alyssa Robillard
Research Review Chair

Review Process





Abstract Submission: Research-Based Abstract

- Standard Abstract for AAHB
- Abstracts typically focus on empirical research*
 - Quantitative or Qualitative
- Opportunity to share your research
 - Background, methods, findings, and implications of your study

*Findings based on experimentation or systematic observations
American Psychological Association. 2023, September 5). *APA Dictionary of Psychology: empirical*. <https://dictionary.apa.org/empirical>

Dr. Alyssa Robillard
Research Review Chair



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Abstract Review Criteria

Significance of research	Does the research address an important problem in the health behavior field? Are findings of significance?
Innovation	Does the research take a novel approach to studying a health behavior problem? Does the research use novel methods, instruments, or interventions?
Approach	Is the overall research approach methodologically and analytically sound?
Clarity of results	Are the results of the study clearly explained in the abstract? Are the results reported germane to the study (do the results directly answer the research question or study purpose provided?)
Writing clarity	Is the writing free of inaccuracies and easy to read?

Abstract reviewers use a rubric to rate abstracts on a 5-point Likert scale ranging from “poor” to “excellent”

Dr. Alyssa Robillard
Research Review Chair



Abstract Submission: Research Protocol Abstract

- **Rationale:** Interest from AAHB membership in an opportunity to present and discuss planned or on-going research
- Abstracts describe innovative research protocols for proposed or on-going health behavior research studies
 - Innovation in the overall study design and/or the specific study methods, including the analytic approach.
- Submissions must indicate whether an abstract is submitted
 - (a) prior to data collection, or
 - (b) during data collection.
- Abstracts focused on procedures or methods after data collection should be sent to the standard research-based AAHB poster track.
- Opportunity to describe planned inquiry around novel and/or significant research questions, describe rigorous research methods, discuss methodological challenges (if applicable), and solicit feedback from the AAHB scientific community

Refer to the “Standard Protocol Items: Recommendations for Interventional Trials” (**SPRIT**) **Guidelines** for recommended content in clinical trial protocols.
***Do not include identifiable information, e.g., university name for affiliated IRB or trial registry numbers, in the abstract.**

Abstract Submission: Research Protocol Abstract

Abstracts should be formatted as follows:

- **Introduction** (including study aims),
- **Methods** (including study setting, eligibility, intervention description and assignment, study measures/outcome(s), sample size, recruitment, study group assignment (if applicable), data collection/management, analysis, and study ethics),
- * **Ethics** (including a declarative statement indicating that the protocol has received IRB approval or the plans to obtain approval before beginning the study, e.g., “This study has received university IRB approval.”),
- **Discussion** (including one or two sentences only around the implications of the methods or the study as a whole to the overall field of health behavior), and
- * **Registration** (if the proposed study meets the US federal definition of a clinical trial, include a declarative statement that an approved trial registry number has been obtained, e.g., “This study has been registered with ClinicalTrials.gov.” Registration of other types of studies is optional).

Research Protocol Abstracts

Abstract Review Criteria:	
Significance of research	Does the research address an important problem in the health behavior field? Potential impact of study protocol
Innovation	Does the research take a novel approach to studying a health behavior problem? Does the research use novel methods, instruments, or interventions? Is the innovative related to the overall study design and/or the specific study methods which could include the analytic approach?
Approach	Does the protocol provide a detailed description of the study method? Is the overall research approach methodologically and analytically strong/sound?
Writing clarity	Is the writing free of inaccuracies and easy to read?

Abstract reviewers use a rubric to rate abstracts on a 5-point Likert scale ranging from “poor” to “excellent”



A Few Additional Reminders

Authorship

- No more than 3 abstracts as ***presenting*** author. (If you submit more than 3 abstracts as *presenting* author, you will be asked to select abstracts for withdrawal.)
- Abstracts are limited to 15 co-authors
- If your abstract is accepted for presentation, you and/or a co-author is expected to register for the conference and be present for your session

If you have to cancel...

- Cancellations for accepted abstract presentations must be communicated directly to the AAHB Research Review Chair prior to the first day of the Meeting



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Questions about your abstract submission?

2024 Research Review Chair,

Alyssa Robillard, PhD

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Lightening Talks & Poster Awards

Dr. Matthew Rossheim
Past Research Review Chair

Three Minute Thesis Solicitation in early Spring



Dr. Erika Thompson
PDMC Chair



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AAHB Research-Based Abstract Submission: Do's & Don'ts

Drs. Daphne Hernandez, Hsien-Chang Lin, Philip Massey
Past Research Review Chairs

Title: It all starts here.

DO:

- Provide adequate detail about the topic, sample, approach, etc.
- Use as an opportunity to attract interest to your study.

DON'T:

- Be too vague.

Organization

DO:

- Label sections clearly – Purpose, Methods, Results, Conclusion.
- Or at least make it clear where the sections are.

DON'T:

- Submit one full block of text.

Purpose section

DO:

- Clearly state the purpose or aim of the study.
- Provide brief context/rationale as to why your study is important.
- Provide relevant information that supports your study aim (e.g., if analysis stratifies by specific variable, justify in the purpose)
- Be brief and focused.

DON'T:

- Be too broad.
- Provide extraneous information that is not relevant to your research question.

Length: 1-3 sentences.

Methods section

DO:

- Describe the study design (quant/qual/mixed).
- Detail the study sample/population (inclusion/exclusion criteria).
- Describe how data were collected (online survey, semi-structured interviews)
- Present key variables used in analyses.

Methods section (cont)

DO:

- Describe analytic plan and make sure this syncs with your study aim (e.g., if mediation analysis used, or if grounded theory used, should be reflected in the study aim).
- Describe model construction (e.g., adjusting for covariates, weighting, etc.)
- For qualitative studies, describe how data were coded and analyzed (e.g., thematic inductive coding)

Length: 3-8 sentences (usually the second longest section, or equally long as Results).

Results

DO:

- Describe findings with data.
- Start by describing the sample using descriptive statistics.
- Quantitative → include actual statistics (e.g., Beta coefficients, Standard Errors, P-values; Odds ratios, 95% CI).
- Qualitative → describe themes, outlying or deviant cases if applicable
- Use your study aim/purpose to guide what results to report.
- Remember that non-significant results (related to your study aim) can be important to include.

Length: 3-8 sentences (usually the longest section).

Conclusion

DO:

- Emphasizes what the study adds to knowledge in the subject area.
- Highlight policy or other practical implications of the study.

DON'T:

- Restate the results.
- Restate the purpose/introduction.
- Make conclusions that are not supported by (or included in) the findings.

2-3 sentences.

Additional tips for success

DO:

- Proofread. Check for spelling and grammar.
- Give your study team and mentors time to review.
- Adhere to the word count. AAHB abstracts allow for up to 300 words.

DON'T:

- UATAND (Use acronyms that are not defined).
- And don't UTMA (use too many acronyms) in the abstract.
- Use jargon.

And finally, the best way to improve abstract writing is....

Write and submit abstracts. Practice makes... better!

Volunteer to review abstracts. For conferences, in your research group, for peers/colleagues.

Learn from other researchers and scholars. Seek out mentoring.



Questions & Answers

Drs. Daphne Hernandez, Hsien-Chang Lin, Philip Massey
Past Research Review Chairs



**See you in
Savannah!**

