
Gerontological Society of America (GSA)

2026 Annual Scientific Meeting

Reinforcing Resilience in Aging Science, Research, and Education

Speaker Procedures

Purpose of This Guide

The Gerontological Society of America (GSA) welcomes your participation in the 2026 Annual Scientific Meeting.

This guide provides information for all accepted speakers participating in the GSA 2026 Annual Scientific Meeting. It outlines important deadlines, required speaker tasks, presentation preparation, and upload procedures, meeting room technology, and policies to help ensure a successful presentation.

1. Important Dates

Activity	Date
Access Key and Speaker Tasks open	July 9, 2026
1. Speaker registration deadline 2. Abstract withdrawal deadline 3. Speaker Tasks deadline	August 6, 2026
Early Bird registration discount deadline	September 1, 2026
Online presentation upload deadline for the onsite presentation	November 2, 2026 (11:59 PM EST)
IMPORTANT: Presentations uploaded after the online deadline must be uploaded in the Speaker Ready Room. Final presentations should be uploaded at least four hours before your scheduled presentation .	
Speaker Ready Room Opens	November 3, 2026
Annual Scientific Meeting	November 4 – 7, 2026

2. Review Speaker Notifications and Communications

- Abstract decision notifications were emailed on May 26, 2026.
- Onsite presentation schedule notifications were emailed on July 8, 2026.



- If you cannot locate your schedule information, contact abstracts@geron.org or log in to Speaker Tasks.
- GSA has made every effort to minimize scheduling conflicts for speakers with multiple accepted abstracts. Due to the volume of accepted abstracts, schedule change requests cannot be accommodated.

Official Communications and Email Responsibility

All official communications regarding abstract scheduling and presentation management are sent electronically.

- Speakers are responsible for ensuring receipt of communications.
- Speakers are strongly encouraged to add the following addresses to their **safe sender's list**:
 - abstracts@geron.org
 - donotreply@conferenceabstracts.com
 - donotreply@CadmiumCD.com
- Failure to receive communications due to email filtering does not constitute grounds for appeal.

3. Complete Required Speaker Tasks

Log in to your individual speaker profile to complete assigned tasks. If corrections are needed, contact GSA as soon as possible.

Note: Some tasks will be available only to certain speaker roles or for presentations accepted for certain formats. See the **Additional Resources** section of this Speaker Procedures for Presentation Formats Details.

Speaker Tasks

Please carefully **check all profile, authors, and abstract information for accuracy**. This information will be displayed in the GSA 2026 Program and **published** in the supplement issue of [Innovation in Aging](#), Program Abstracts from the GSA 2026 Annual Scientific Meeting, **exactly as it appears by the specified deadline**.

Complete Your Speaker Profile for Display in Meeting Program and Materials

- Confirm or update your profile information.
- Upload a profile photo.
- Update your biography.

Complete Permissions and Confirm Registration

- Complete copyright permissions.
- Enter GSA 2026 registration order number.



Confirm Presentation Information

- First authors review and confirm all author and abstract information.
- Symposium chairs review and confirm all author and symposium information.
- Session chairs confirm their role and review session abstracts.

Upload Presentation Materials (Launching in September)

- Upload PowerPoint slides for onsite presentations.
- Upload attendee-access presentation.
- Upload attendee-access handouts (PDF).

Attendee access materials will be available digitally to all registrants from the scheduled presentation date until the end of the year.

4. Prepare and Upload Presentation

Include Artificial Intelligence Policy Disclosure

The use of automated technologies and tools—commonly referred to as artificial intelligence (AI), generative AI, or machine learning tools—**is permitted provided that their use is documented and that authors assume responsibility for the content.** As with human-generated content, authors are responsible for the accuracy, validity, and originality of computer-generated content. Automated assistive writing technologies do not qualify as authorship, as they cannot provide approvals or consent for submission. For Figures, no data within an image may be enhanced, obscured, moved, removed, or introduced by digital manipulation or generative AI image technologies and tools.

If you used AI-assisted technology (such as a language model, chatbots, image creators, machine learning, or similar technologies) to create or assist with the creation or modifying of any of the content in this submission (e.g., text, tables, figures, video), **you must disclose and provide a description of AI-generated content that is included in this presentation and how the AI tool was used.**

Disclosure and description are not required for the use of basic tools for checking grammar, spelling, references, or similar items.

Apply Reframing Aging Guidelines

GSA requires person-first, non-ageist language. See the **Additional Resources** section of this Speaker Procedures for Reframing Aging Language and Communication Guidelines.

Use: “Older adults,” “older people,” or specific age ranges

Avoid: “Seniors,” “the elderly,” “the aged,” and deficit-based or stigmatizing language



Best practices:

- Lead with solutions and strengths.
- Use precise descriptors (e.g., age ranges, populations).
- Maintain neutral, respectful tone consistent with APA and National Institutes of Health (NIH) guidance.

Upload Paper and Symposium Onsite Presentations

- Upload presentation files through the online Cadmium Conference Harvester speaker tasks or in the Speaker Ready Room.
- Online uploads close at 11:59 PM EST on November 2, 2026.
- After this deadline, presentations may only be uploaded in the **Speaker Ready Room** in **Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center - Room Chesapeake J-L**.
- Final presentations must be submitted **at least four hours before presentation time**.

Speaker Ready Room

- All paper and symposia speakers are required to visit the Speaker Ready Room to ensure the quality of your presentation(s), including fonts, bullets, outlines, animations, etc.
- We take every precaution to ensure files are not corrupted during file upload to the INSPIRE onsite platform.
- It is recommended that you bring a copy of your files on a USB drive.
- You must submit your final presentation at least 4 hours before the presentation time for it to display in your meeting room.
- You may not upload your presentation in your meeting room or use your own laptop.
- **After 11:59 PM EST on Monday, November 2, 2026**, all presentations must be uploaded to the **Speaker Ready Room ONLY**.

Hours of Operation and Location

Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center—Room Chesapeake J-L

4:00 PM–6:00 PM EST on Tuesday, November 3, 2026

7:00 AM–6:00 PM EST on:

- Wednesday, November 4
- Thursday, November 5
- Friday, November 6
- Saturday, November 7

5. Registration and Attendance Policies

- All speakers and discussants must [register for the GSA Annual Scientific Meeting](#) by **August 6, 2026**. Register by September 1, 2026, to receive the Early Bird rate. To qualify for member registration rates, membership must remain active through January 1, 2027.
 - Speakers must complete their GSA Annual Scientific Meeting registration for their accepted abstract to be published in the Annual Scientific Meeting supplement issue of [Innovation in Aging](#).
 - All accepted abstracts are expected to be presented on site in National Harbor, Maryland, during the November meeting.
 - In the event of speaker conflicts, rescheduling cannot be accommodated due to submission volume.
 - Only **registered individuals** may attend the GSA Annual Scientific Meeting and its sessions.
 - Photography, recording, or redistribution of presentations is strictly prohibited.
 - Invitations may not be extended to public officials or other non-registered individuals without prior written approval from GSA.
 - Individuals may not engage in unethical behavior, fundraising, or political activities.
 - All participants are expected to uphold professional standards of conduct and scientific integrity.
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6. Meeting Room Technology and Logistics

Standard session rooms include:

- One (1) PC laptop that speakers are required to use.
 - The use of personal computers for presentations is prohibited.
- One (1) LCD projector.
- One (1) screen.
- One (1) electric pointer.
- Head table microphones and a standing floor microphone will be available for Q&A in each meeting room.
- Should problems arise with equipment during your presentation session, you may click the “REQUEST ASSISTANCE” tab on the laptop screen in the meeting room, and a technician will be sent to your room immediately.

Individuals who wish to use additional equipment must arrange for it at their own expense.

GSA does not provide WiFi for presentation sessions.

Inclusivity and Accessibility

GSA encourages all speakers to design presentations that are accessible and inclusive. To ensure **speaker presentations are inclusive, please adhere to the following practices.**

- When presenting, speak clearly and directly into the lectern **microphone**.
 - **During Q&A, use a microphone** on the speaker's head table to respond to all audience inquiries.
 - Please ask that **audience members** queue up and ask their questions at the **standing microphone** in the meeting room's audience area.
 - **Repeat all questions into the microphone** to clarify and ensure that all attendees can hear the question.
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7. Speaker Action Checklist

Complete the following tasks before the meeting.

- ☐ Register for the Annual Scientific Meeting by the required deadline.
 - ☐ Confirm your presentation information in the Speaker Portal.
 - ☐ Update your speaker profile, biography, and photograph (if applicable).
 - ☐ Upload your presentation by the online deadline.
 - ☐ Review your session time, room assignment, and presentation format.
 - ☐ Review Speaker Ready Room procedures.
 - ☐ Bring a backup copy of your presentation on a USB drive.
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Additional Resources

Reframing Aging Language and Communication Guidelines (Required)

GSA requires that all abstracts adhere to evidence-based communication practices that improve understanding of aging and avoid ageism and implicit age bias. These guidelines come from the National Center to Reframe Aging and align with updates to the APA Publication Manual (7th ed.), the AMA Manual of Style (11th ed.), the AP Stylebook (57th ed.), and [the NIH Style Guide](#).

Required Language Practices

- Use **person-first, non-ageist terminology**, such as *older adults*, *older people*, or *people aged 65 years and older*.
- Avoid categorical or deficit-based terms such as *seniors*, *the elderly*, or *the aged*.
- When possible, specify **age ranges** (e.g., adults aged 75–84 years) and relevant population descriptors.
- Use person-first phrasing (e.g., *person with diabetes*, not *diabetic*).
- Avoid language implying helplessness or victimhood (e.g., *suffering from*, *afflicted with*).

Framing Best Practices

- Lead with **solutions, strengths, and opportunities**, followed by supporting data.
- Use concrete examples to illustrate innovation or impact.
- Ensure descriptions and images reflect diversity in ability, race, sex, gender, culture, and socioeconomic status.
- Refer to [resources from the National Center to Reframe Aging](#) for additional information.

Compliance with these guidelines is **mandatory**.

Definitions of Terms as Used in the Speaker Procedures

Term	Definition
Paper Session	Oral presentation within a 90-minute session of 4–6 papers organized by topic.
Poster Session	75-minute visual presentation printed on a 4-foot × 8-foot board with face-to-face attendee interaction.
Flash Poster Session	Brief 5-minute oral overview presentation (no slides) to a theater-style audience, followed by poster viewing and discussion in a 90-minute session. Supplementary session highlighting up to 10 selected posters per session.
Symposium Session	Chair-organized 90-minute session with 3–5 coordinated, cohesive individual symposium abstracts on a shared theme.
First Author	Speaker and primary contact for the abstract.
Chair	Organizer and primary contact for a symposium.
Discussant	An individual facilitating scholarly discussion during a symposium session.
Co-Author	Up to seven collaborators who significantly contributed to the scholarship.
Speaker/Speaker Role	Roles include award lecturers, chairs/co-chairs, discussants, and first authors of individual symposiums, papers, and posters.
Participant	Any individual listed on a presentation, including first authors, co-authors, symposium chairs, co-chairs, and discussants.

Presentation Format Details

Poster Session

Printed posters are displayed on an assigned **4-foot × 8-foot poster board** for the duration of the **75-minute session**, as listed in your schedule notification email. The space will be shared with the **Exhibit Hall** to elevate the visibility of the posters and the value of the scholarship presented.

Poster sessions take place in **Exhibit Hall B-D** at the Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center at four exclusive time slots dedicated to poster presentations:

- 6:00 PM–7:15 PM on Wednesday, November 4 (Speaker access starting at 4:30 PM)
- 1:45 PM–3:00 PM on Thursday, November 5 (Speaker access starting at 11:30 AM)
- 1:45 PM–3:00 PM on Friday, November 6 (Speaker access starting at 11:30 AM)
- 1:45 PM–3:00 PM on Saturday, November 7 (Speaker access starting at 11:30 AM)

Ensure the printed poster is hung on the designated numbered poster board at least 30 minutes before the presentation starts.

Designated poster board number assignment is the number that precedes your presentation title in the GSA 2026 Meeting Program. Example: “1 – Presentation Title” is poster board 1 during the scheduled poster session.

Poster speakers are responsible for removing their materials at the end of their presentation time. Any **posters left behind** at the closure of the Exhibit Hall each day **will be discarded**. GSA is not responsible for storing or maintaining any removed posters.

GSA is not responsible for shipping poster materials to the site. FedEx can handle onsite printing of posters ahead of the meeting for pick up. Further details coming soon!

Flash Poster Sessions

- The 90-minute flash session is an additional presentation time for poster speakers.
- Held in a meeting room with a microphone and speaker system at the front of the room and poster boards at the back of the room.
- Time will be devoted to **brief 5-minute presentations (without slides) at a podium** to a theater-style audience.
- Remaining time will be reserved for attendees to view the posters and interact with the speakers at the poster boards.
- Each flash poster session will have a session chair to assist with timekeeping and speaker introductions.
- Flash poster sessions will each consist of up to 10 posters scheduled on Saturday, November 7.

Paper Sessions

- Paper sessions last **90 minutes** and feature four to six oral presentations grouped around a common theme or topic in a **standard session room**.
- With five presentations in a session, each presentation should be no more than **18 minutes** (approximately 14 minutes for the presentation and 4 minutes for questions and discussion).
 - ***With fewer or more papers in a session, adjust the time accordingly.***
- Speakers must stay within their allotted time.
- Each paper session will have a chair to assist with timekeeping and facilitate discussion among speakers and audience members.

Symposium Sessions

- Symposia are scheduled in **90-minute** sessions and consist of several presentations on a topic, organized by a chair, in a **standard session room**.
- An optional discussant is on hand to facilitate discussion between speakers and the audience.
- Chairs and/or organizers of symposia are responsible for ensuring sessions begin and end on time and for introducing the session.
- With five presentations in a session, each presentation should be no more than **18 minutes** (approximately 14 minutes for the presentation and 4 minutes for questions and discussion).
 - ***With fewer or more papers in a session, adjust the time accordingly.***

PowerPoint Templates and Guidelines

- [GSA 2026 Poster Presentation Template Format Details](#)
 - [GSA 2026 Poster PowerPoint Template](#)
 - Watch the [GSA YouTube webinar](#), “Thinking Inside the Box: A Strategic Approach to Message-Driven Posters,” to prepare for your poster presentation.
 - [GSA 2026 Paper/Symposium PowerPoint Slide Template](#)
 - QR codes can be included in your presentation (many free QR code generators are available online) or displayed on your poster.
 - Please be aware that some free QR codes may expire or become unavailable after a specified period. Double-check the settings and lifespan before finalizing your design.
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Role-Specific Responsibilities and Requirements

For First Authors (Papers, Posters, Individual Symposium Abstracts)

- Ensure abstract accuracy, APA formatting, and policy compliance.
- Ensure AI policy compliance in presentation.
- Serve as primary recipient of presentation communications.
- Register for the Annual Scientific Meeting to ensure publication in the supplement issue of *Innovation in Aging* under the title: Program Abstracts from the GSA 2026 Annual Scientific Meeting.



For Symposium Chairs

- Manage Co-Chairs, Discussants, and Individual Abstract authors.
- Ensure symposium overview accuracy, APA formatting, and policy compliance.
- Communicate scheduling details and presentation communications to participants.
- Register for the Annual Scientific Meeting to ensure publication in the supplement issue of Innovation in Aging under the title: Program Abstracts from the GSA 2026 Annual Scientific Meeting.

For Co-Authors and Participants

- Respond promptly to automated invitations to complete required information.
- Review submitted content for accuracy; authorship disputes cannot be resolved by GSA.

For Questions or Clarification

Frequently Asked Questions: gsa2026.org/abstracts

Contact: abstracts@geron.org

Subject line: “GSA 2026 Annual Scientific Meeting Speaker Question.”

Please allow adequate response time during peak deadline periods.

Appendix

Tips for Speakers

Plan with the Audience in Mind

- Know your audience and tailor your message for a multidisciplinary group of researchers, educators, clinicians, practitioners, policy professionals, and aging-services leaders.
- Organize the presentation around a clear question, objective, or takeaway so attendees can quickly understand the purpose and relevance of your work.
- Focus on the most important findings, implications, or applications rather than trying to cover every detail.
- Use person-first, non-ageist language and follow GSA’s Reframing Aging guidance throughout your presentation.

Design Accessible Slides and Posters

- Use a clean visual layout with strong contrast, readable fonts, generous spacing, and minimal text on each slide or poster panel.
- Summarize charts, tables, figures, and images verbally so attendees do not have to rely only on what they can see on the screen or poster.
- Use visuals to support the message—not to replace it—and avoid dense tables, crowded figures, or text-heavy slides.
- Ensure any video or audio clips are embedded, captioned, and tested before the presentation.



Prepare and Practice

- Rehearse aloud and time your presentation, leaving adequate time for questions, transitions, and discussion.
- Practice explaining complex concepts in smaller, focused segments, using examples or applications where helpful.
- Prepare a concise opening that states the purpose of the presentation and a closing that reinforces the main takeaway.
- Upload presentation materials by the posted deadline and bring a backup copy on a USB drive.

Deliver Clearly and Inclusively

- Speak at a clear, measured pace and use the microphone provided, even in smaller rooms.
- Avoid reading slides word-for-word; instead, explain the meaning, relevance, and implications of the information shown.
- When presenting data, briefly state the key takeaway from each chart or figure.
- If applicable, connect findings to education, policy, practice, or future research using clear, nonscientific language.

Facilitate Questions and Discussion

- Build in time for questions, reflection, or discussion when the session format allows.
- Ask audience members to use the standing microphone and repeat each question into the microphone before answering.
- Respond briefly and directly so multiple attendees have an opportunity to participate.
- Offer to continue longer or highly specific conversations after the session, when appropriate.

GSA is unable to reproduce, ship, deliver, or reimburse the cost of handouts or supplemental materials. Speakers are responsible for preparing and distributing any materials they wish to share with attendees.