



PATH
INTERNATIONAL

Professional Association of Therapeutic
Horsemanship International

CONFERENCE
2025

November 7-9 | Denver, CO

CALL for
ABSTRACTS

WHO SHOULD PRESENT?

- Credentialed Professionals
- Mental Health Professionals
- Center Program Directors
- EAL Professionals
- Researchers
- Animal-Human Bond Specialists
- Educators
- Special Education Experts
- Veterinary Services
- Healthcare Providers
- ... and more!

INSIDE:

- Abstract review
- Poster sessions
- Electronic submission
- Venue
- Guidelines
- Dates
- ... and more

Join us for the premier event in equine-assisted services

PATH Intl. is actively soliciting abstracts on important research, best practices, trends and developments that are of significance to association membership and other conference attendees.

The association is especially interested in receiving abstracts from presenters with information relevant to the field of equine-assisted services (EAS), describing innovative programs, research or other related information.

Topics of interest include, but are not limited to:

- Administration
- Equine health and behavior
- Approved, completed research
- Program/Instructor areas of interest
- Therapies in equine-assisted services
- EAP/EAC
- PT/OT/SLP incorporating equines
- Equine-assisted learning in education, organizations and personal development
- Horsemanship
- Volunteer management
- Special populations (disabilities, geriatrics, addictions, Veterans, etc.)

NOTE: *It is not appropriate nor permitted for presentations to focus on selling or promoting materials or products. This includes but is not limited to therapeutic methodologies, products useful in EAS programs, software or internet applications.*

WHY PRESENT?

Presenting at the PATH Intl. Conference:

- Gives credentialed professionals, volunteers, board members, administrators, mental health providers and others in this field the tools to improve the services they offer to individuals of all ages who have a broad spectrum of special needs.
- Empowers equine caretakers to maximize the level of welfare provided for the animals in EAS programs.

- Supports a group of hardworking, caring professionals in a fascinating and rewarding field.

WHO SHOULD PRESENT?

Credentialed and mental health professionals, equine-assisted learning professionals, as well as individuals from the healthcare and veterinarian professions are encouraged to apply. Individuals from the education and special education fields, research professionals focusing their work on the animal-human bond, center program directors and administrative personnel are all welcome to apply.

Professionals able to empower attendees with their fresh and innovative expertise in fund development, volunteer management or facilities management are also encouraged to submit an abstract.

PRESENTATION SELECTION

Individuals interested in presenting at the PATH Intl. Conference must submit a completed presentation submission form to PATH Intl. by **March 17, 2025, 11:59 p.m., Mountain Standard Time**. No abstracts will be accepted after this date! The PATH Intl. Health and Education Committee will select presenters for the sessions from the abstracts submitted. (See Abstract Review Process on page 4.)

Presentation Submissions Due:

March 17, 2025, 11:59 p.m., MST

Decision Date:

Allow eight weeks for review process.
Notifications will be sent via email.

Conference Dates:

November 7-9, 2025

HANDOUT AND PRESENTATION GUIDELINES

If your abstract is accepted for presentation, you are asked to submit an electronic handout/outline of your presentation to be given to conference attendees. This can be as simple as a PDF version of your presentation slides. Prior to the conference, attendees will be able to download handouts from the Whova event app.

If you plan to play a video during your session, please embed the video into the presentation. Presenters are responsible for providing their own laptop and HDMI connection equipment.

There is no conference discount for poster presenters or travel reimbursement for any presenters.

PRESENTER REGISTRATION FEE

Keeping expenses and conference fees at a minimum has been a primary factor in the continued success of the conference. To express gratitude toward presenters selected, PATH Intl. is able to offer a choice of one of two discount registration options:

1 Presenters who plan to participate in the full conference, i.e., attend any sessions, partake in any meals or functions, etc., may deduct \$100 from one registration fee. If the presentation is given by multiple presenters, the discount remains \$100 total and may be used by one person or shared between presenters. If a presenter is teaching multiple sessions, only one discount is permitted. Presenters must register with a hard copy registration form, which is faxed, emailed or mailed.

OR

2 Presenters who will only be on site the day they are presenting and who DO NOT plan to attend any other educational offerings, meals or events on any day are not required to register or pay a fee.

ABOUT PATH INTL.

PATH Intl. was formed in 1969 as the North American Riding for the Handicapped Association. Since then the association has grown to reflect a dynamic field that continues to further discover and define the benefits derived from humans partnering with equines. PATH Intl. currently represents and supports **1,009 member centers** that offer therapeutic riding, interactive vaulting, carriage driving, equine-assisted learning, psychotherapy/counseling and therapies incorporating equines.

Globally, **4,875 PATH Intl. Certified Professionals** and nearly **4,000 individual members** represent every continent except Antarctica. Through its field-tested safety standards and peer-reviewed accreditation process, PATH Intl. has been a leader in demonstrating and promoting safety and professionalism in a rapidly growing and fascinating field.

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

The growth of equine-assisted services (EAS) have resulted in an urgent need for industry leading education and research. The PATH Intl. Conference provides a forum to learn, discuss and evaluate current and future industry trends and practices. This professional setting facilitates study and reflection with colleagues and outside-the-industry experts on major current topics.

The PATH Intl. Conference delivers the most valuable and comprehensive EAS education opportunities available. Attendees are comprised of PATH Intl. Credentialed Professionals and members, program administrators, volunteers, board members, participants, therapists, healthcare professionals and individuals new to the industry. Knowledge and expertise are shared through workshops, sessions and networking along with fun events.



Abstract Review Process

An abstract is a brief summary of an entire presentation; it allows the reader to survey the contents of the project quickly. Members of the PATH Intl. Health and Education Committee conduct a blind evaluation of each abstract. Each committee member evaluates the abstract based on the required format and criteria for abstract submission. Authors whose abstracts are selected for presentation (oral or poster) will receive further instructions regarding the presentation.

HOW TO WRITE YOUR ABSTRACT: GENERAL CRITERIA FOR ALL ABSTRACTS

A complete abstract is clear, accurate, comprehensive, concise and self-contained. The topic is covered with enough detail so that no questions are left in the reader's mind.

Please include the following:

- A statement of the purpose or objective of the material being presented.
- A description or explanation of the presentation's content, such as the specific program, theories, practices, methods, techniques or data to be discussed.
- References on qualifications to present this topic. (e.g. 20 years teaching EAS)
- A summary of the principle points of the presentation.
- Abstract text that is informative, coherent and logical.
- Use of the optimal terminology and current with the PATH Intl. Standards. Check the current *PATH Intl. Standards for Certification and Accreditation*.
- If the presentation will include pictures and/or video of any participant, volunteer, etc., the presenter **must** have written consent from the individuals in the pictures and/or video.
- If an abstract submitter plans to present any research (formal scientific process for investigation) a center or individual has conducted, this plan **must** be disclosed in the abstract, and the research project **must** have received appropriate human and/or animal subject review board approval. (See below for Research Submission Criteria.)
- The content proposed in the abstract and accepted for presentation is the content that **must** be presented. Deviations from this may result in presenter(s) not being accepted for future conferences.

SPECIFIC CRITERIA FOR REPORTING OF RESEARCH PROJECTS

- Abstracts on research must be submitted on completed projects.
- Research must be conducted by individuals qualified through education to conduct research.
- The research project **must** be approved by the appropriate ethics committee when human and/or animal subjects are involved. The ethics committee for human subjects is commonly called the Institutional Review Board (IRB). The name of the committee and when the project was reviewed **must** be included in the abstract information and the author **must** be prepared to provide proof of approval as requested.
- The oral research presentation should be a translation of your research project into a PowerPoint presentation and should include the following:
 1. The research question or problem
 2. Why the question or problem is important
 3. The research methods
 4. The results of the research
 - a. Graphs and diagrams are very helpful
 - b. Visuals need to be clear and large enough to see from the back of the room.
 5. Discussion/conclusion
 6. Future work
- Be sure to leave enough time for questions.

SPECIFIC CRITERIA FOR THERAPIES

Therapies include physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech language pathology, psychotherapy/counseling and recreational therapy—all incorporating equines. Therapy providers are licensed and credentialed in their discipline.¹ The following criteria pertain to abstracts related to therapy:

- A licensed provider **must** author or co-author the presentation. The licensed provider **must** also be able to present the information.
- When describing the population in research of those receiving a treatment, use acceptable standard diagnosis(es) terminology (e.g., DSM V, ICDM). Diagnosis(es) must have been made by a qualified licensed provider.
- For patients/clients identified above, a licensed provider must have implemented the treatment or program.

POSTER SESSION

The PATH Intl. Conference will include a poster session. Presenters may submit an abstract for the poster session by following the same directions as those for the traditional oral classroom presentation as outlined in the “Abstract Review Process.” During the electronic submission process, please indicate whether you are submitting an abstract for the poster session or an oral classroom presentation. Additional instructions for posters may be found in the “Guidelines for Poster Presentations” on the next page.



Electronic Submission Process

- 1 Applicants must use the presentation submission method found at:
<https://forms.gle/DnhtvNHPEPg3Gnqb7>.
- 2 When completing the electronic submission form:
 - List only general presenter information in the biographical summary. That is, do not include any specific information that may identify the presenter(s) (e.g., the exact name of a center). Please keep the presenter name(s) and center name(s) anonymous.
 - Use complete sentences in write-in boxes.
 - Spell out all acronyms the first time used. This includes acronyms in the biographical summary.
 - If your presentation requires an equine, the abstract will be considered for a pre-conference session. All abstract criteria must be met.
- 3 All abstracts must be received by PATH Intl., in proper format, by **March 17, 2025, 11:59 p.m., MST**.

- 4 A submission confirmation message will appear at the end of the form after being fully submitted.
- 5 All abstract presenters must be reachable via email and be able to accept email attachments.

REVIEW OF ABSTRACTS

The Health and Education Committee will evaluate whether:

- 1 The topic is original, relevant and applicable to the EAS industry.
- 2 The topic makes a significant contribution to EAS.
- 3 The abstract meets the criteria listed above.
- 4 Presenter agrees to follow PATH Intl. Standards and terminology.
- 5 Presenter explains how the abstract will be interactive.

¹ Rugari, S. M., Major, S. M., & Kennedy, A. (2013). A horse is a horse—and sometimes part of a clinical team, too. *American Nurse Today*, 8(9), www.americannurse.com

Guidelines for Poster Presentations

WHAT IS A POSTER PRESENTATION?

- An event where the researcher or practitioner stands by the poster display during an assigned time so attendees/visitors can come and view the poster and speak with the presenter
- Visual display board of research, a program or project
- A summary of what you did, how you did it, what you learned
- Short text, mixed with tables, graphs, images, etc.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF A POSTER?

- To illustrate an explanation of your presentation to a viewer
- Visual to explain your work when you're not there
- To make people want to hear more about your presentation

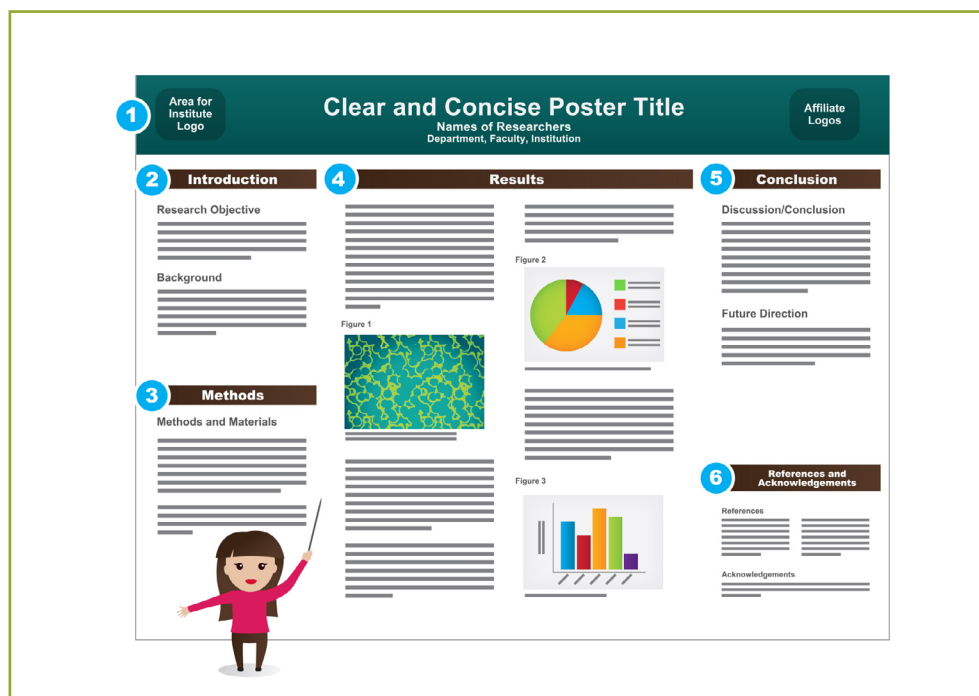
WHAT ARE THE ELEMENTS OF AN EFFECTIVE POSTER?

- Focused on a single message
- Use of images/graphs can help tell the story, use text sparingly
- Ordered—keep sequence ordered and obvious
- Concise, short, and straightforward writing—long, complex sentences are too difficult for attendees to read and process quickly

HOW DO YOU MAKE A POSTER?

- You can use PowerPoint to create your poster—there are many examples online
- Suggested font size: title 54 pt., body 24 pt., labels and caption 18 pt.
- Set up the page size as 48" width and 36" height
- Leave one inch-margin on all sides
- Print poster at copy store

EXAMPLE POSTER LAYOUT





TO SUBMIT AN ABSTRACT:

<https://forms.gle/DnhtvNHPEPg3Gnqb7>

WATCH the video from the Health & Education Committee for Abstract Tips:

https://youtu.be/_72t8GWBuSU

DEADLINE:

March 17, 2025, 11:59 p.m. MST

QUESTIONS?

Email internationalconference@pathintl.org



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