AMA Research Challenge
Frequently Asked Questions

How do I submit an abstract?

You must submit via the AMA Research Challenge abstract submission site available on the AMA Research Challenge website. The abstract submission site is external to the AMA website. To start your submission, click **Log In** in the top right corner and either log in to your account from previous participation (account credentials are different from your AMA website account), or create an account. Once you are logged in, click **Start submission**. If you have any issues or do not receive a confirmation email, please contact researchsymposium@ama-assn.org.

Do I have to be a member of the AMA to submit an abstract?

Yes. You must be a member of the AMA by the submission deadline, July 16, to submit an abstract for consideration. Please join or renew at https://member.ama-assn.org/join-renew/member-search before you submit an abstract.

How can an international medical graduate awaiting residency in the U.S. with an ECFMG certification join the AMA?

International medical graduates who are awaiting residency in the U.S. and are ECFMG certified may join the AMA online at https://member.ama-assn.org/join-renew/member-search.

What are the steps to submit an abstract?

1. Review the Official Rules and FAQs.
2. The abstract must be submitted using an approved template. Abstracts submitted without the approved template will **not** be considered.
3. The abstract must be submitted **without** pictures, graphs, or citations/references.
4. The abstract must **not** exceed 400 words. The word count does not include the abstract title, page numbering, or any ancillary entrant information.
5. You must select one of the following topics for your abstract submission: basic science, clinical and translational research, clinical vignettes, health systems science, medical education, or public health and health policy.
6. Upload with the abstract title (or an abbreviated title) as the file name. Do **not** include any special characters or include author(s) names in the file name. Submit as a PDF.

What is the deadline for abstract submissions?

The abstract submission deadline is Wednesday, July 16, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. Central Time.

What happens after I submit an abstract?

Abstract review and scoring begins at the end of July. Entrants will receive an email with an update on their abstract status in early September 2026.

Can I submit multiple abstracts for consideration?

Only one abstract per entrant can be considered. The appropriate abstract template must be used.

I am not the lead author on the research. Can I still submit an abstract?

An entrant's abstract must be submitted by either (1) the sole author or (2) the lead author with authorization by co-authors and owners of the research in order to submit the abstract.

Are citations or references needed in the abstract?

Citations or references are not a necessity with the abstract. If your abstract is accepted for consideration, you may include citations or references with your poster.

What is the abstract format for the Clinical Vignettes topic?

Please download the abstract template specific for Clinical Vignettes. It is structured as: Background, Case Presentation, and Discussion.

Can I submit an abstract that has already been published?

No. You may not submit an abstract if it has been published as of the submission deadline. However, you may submit an abstract if you have submitted it for consideration at another conference, will present it at another conference, or have already presented it at another conference.