CALL FOR PAPERS

The PACA Program Committee invites proposals for Panels (parents, professionals, students, etc.), Posters, Oral Presentations, and Technology Demonstrations at the PACA 2019 Annual Conference to be held in Nairobi, Kenya on April 25th-27th , 2019.

Abstracts may be submitted as (a) part of a Panel, (b) an oral presentation, (c) a poster, or (d) a Technology Demonstration. We are requesting that all papers presented be original research/work and include a cultural and international perspective.

Abstract submission deadline: December 31, 2018 (11:59pm PT).

Abstract Information:

PACA is looking for Abstracts for the following categories

1. Autism awareness
2. Diagnosis
3. Early Development and early intervention
4. Interventions: Non-pharmacologic for infants and preschoolers
5. Intervention: Non-pharmacologic for school age, adolescents and adults (Issues and interventions)
6. Pharmacologic interventions
7. Best practice in interventions
8. Evidence based Interventions
9. Language and communication
10. Alternative and Augmentative communication (AAC)
11. Social skills
12. Adaptive Skills
13. Sensory, motor, repetitive behaviors and interests
14. Service delivery and systems of care
15. Special Education in Africa
16. Family issues and stakeholders experience
17. Adult outcome: medical, cognitive, behavioral
18. Transition to adulthood issues, challenges and possible solutions
19. Health and nutrition for autism
20. Parent Training and involvement

21.   Dealing with challenging behaviors
22.   Professional Education and Training
23.   Self-Advocacy
24.   Employability
25.   Co-morbid disabilities
26.   Evidence Based curriculum & Free Individually Appropriate Education
27.   Rights of individuals with Autism in Africa
28.   Epidemiology

You can't find your area? No worries. Please email us your suggestion at: info@panafricancongressonautism.org and we will get back to you.

Types of Submissions

1. Panel Submissions. The aim of panels is to present lectures around a common theme of high relevance to autism research and practice. Submissions should consist of 4 linked presentations submitted as a group by a Panel Chair. A Discussant can be included, but is optional. The role of the discussant will be to provide a discussion integrating concepts raised in the presentations rather than to serve as a 5th presentation.

    The Panel Chair should submit a paragraph describing the general theme of the session and what will be discussed. It is understood that all named speakers will have committed in advance to participate in the panel if selected.

    Panel session length is 2 hours. Each talk can be 15 minutes long, with an additional 5 minutes for questions after each presentation, and 10 minutes allotted for the discussant. It is recommended to include a discussant. If there is no discussant, the Panel Chair would determine the best distribution of that time for either presentations or question and answers.

    The program committee welcomes in particular panel proposals that are translational or cross-cultural.

    Papers submitted as part of a panel that is not accepted will automatically be considered as an individual submission. If the abstract is reviewed favorably and is determined to stand alone as an individual submission outside a panel, the Program Committee will select oral or poster format. Do not submit material more than once (e.g., as part of a

panel and as an individual oral presentation). The submitter can indicate if they do not want the abstract considered for oral or poster presentation. If this option is selected, and the panel isn't accepted, the abstract will be withdrawn from consideration.

Oral Presentations should be data-driven, empirical reports of new findings that have not been previously published or presented elsewhere at the time of submission. Oral presentations will be 10 minutes long with 5 additional minutes for questions. **Please avoid using the Oral Presentation format to review the literature or describe published techniques.** The Program Committee will evaluate abstracts requested for oral presentations based on their new research content.

Abstracts that are accepted in this format will be grouped into Oral sessions according to common themes by the Program Committee. There are fewer slots for oral presentations than posters. If the submitter selects the "Oral Presentation only" format, and the Program Committee does not select the abstract for an Oral Presentation, the abstract will be withdrawn from consideration. Please indicate "Either Oral or Poster" format if there is no objection to the poster format as a default.

Poster Submissions should be data-driven, empirical reports of new findings that have not been previously published or presented elsewhere at the time of submission.

Poster presentations will be approximately 1.5 hours long.

Technology Poster / Demonstration Submissions should highlight an area of technology and its application to autism spectrum disorder. Preference will be given to those that include empirical data, represent a broad selection of the African community, and include an interactive demonstration of technology.

PACA 2019 Autism in Africa: Debunking the myths & stigma through Diagnosis, Education and Evidence Based Interventions

Steps and Instructions:

Guidelines and submission

All Abstracts must be emailed to info@panafricancongressonautism.org

1. There is no fee to submit abstracts. Presenters whose abstracts are accepted for presentation must register and pay the registration fee for the conference by the early bird registration deadline.
2. An individual may submit as the first author or presenter once for each submission type (oral, poster, panel).
3. All submissions should provide "new" information. Oral and Poster submissions should not have been published or presented previously at the time of submission. Panels may include previously published information, but it is expected that they will also provide new, unpublished data as well.
4. Abstracts must be submitted through the PACA email by, December 31th at 11:59 pm, Pacific Time.
5. Funding sources (sponsors) must be identified, including commercial, public, or private foundation grants, and off-label use of drugs must be declared.
6. Submission of an abstract for presentation at the PACA Annual conference is predicated on the following:
    1. Any work with human or animal subjects reported in the abstract complies with the guiding policies and principles for experimental procedures.
    2. Each author has given consent to appear as an author. Each author will automatically receive notice of abstract submission, and will be able to view it at any time.

    TO SUBMIT AN ABSTRACT FOR AN ORAL PRESENTATION OR POSTER:

7. The text of abstract submissions must:
    1. Be 500 words or less
    2. Include the following sub-headings: Background, Objectives, Methods, Results, Conclusions, with enough information to allow the reviewer to assess the value of each of these categories.
    3. include the authors' names and affiliations.
    4. Graphics (tables/figures) are optional and will not be published in the online Abstract Book. They do not count toward the 500 word limit. A maximum of two graphics are

allowed (2 tables, 2 figures, or one of each), incorporated into a single file. Upload the graphics file using one of the following file formats: .jpg .gif .png

5. For Tech Demo submissions:
   1. Note if the presentation will include a live demo at the meeting.
   2. If so, briefly describe the demo.

TO SUBMIT A PANEL:

Enter both a summary of the overall panel theme, and an abstract for each proposed talk in the panel.

- Panels require a Panel Chair who is responsible for the content within the panel. The Panel Chair can also serve as a speaker within the panel.
- It is up to the Panel Chair to decide whether he/she would like to submit all papers or ask each author to submit his/her own paper for the panel.
- The submitter of each abstract can indicate if they do not want their specific abstract considered for oral or poster presentation in the case of the panel not being accepted.
- It is recommended to include a discussant. The discussant should be identified at the time the panel is submitted; no abstract is needed for the discussant. The role of the discussant is to provide a discussion integrating concepts and findings raised in the presentations, while drawing on implications for further research and clinical application rather than to serve as a 5th presentation.

Panels will be evaluated as a whole. If any abstract within the panel is incomplete, the panel will be considered incomplete.

8. The text of Panel submissions must:
   0. Include a paragraph (200 words or less) describing the overall theme of the panel, followed by a 500-word or less abstract for each presentation within the panel.
   1. Include the following sub-headings in each abstract: Background, Objectives, Methods, Results, Conclusions, with enough information to allow the reviewer to assess the value of each of these categories.
   2. include the authors' names and affiliations

Note: ALL ABSTRACTS WILL BE PRINTED EXACTLY AS THEY ARE SUBMITTED. Therefore we recommend that you compose the text of the abstract in a separate document before beginning the emailing. Check the spelling and grammar of the text before submitting it. The conference organizers will not edit any portion of abstracts (e.g., title, authors, affiliations, spelling errors).

Disclaimer:

Data presented at the Pan African Congress on Autism (PACA) is the sole responsibility of the authors. The sponsor of the annual Conference, the Pan African Congress on Autism (PACA), takes no responsibility for its accuracy. Submitted PACA abstracts are reviewed only to ensure that the authors will be presenting empirical data and that aims and conduct of the study, as far as can be ascertained, are consistent with international ethical guidelines for scientific research (Declaration of Helsinki) and ensure a cultural and international perspectives. Acceptance of an abstract for presentation at the Conference does not represent an endorsement by the Organization of the quality or accuracy of the data and their interpretation, which judgment must await publication in a peer reviewed journal. Consumers should recognize that study data presented at the Conference is often preliminary and in some cases speculative, and that findings and conclusions have not undergone the rigors of a true peer review process.

For Technical support, send an email to info@panafricancongressonautism.org