



IACUC21 Call for Session Proposals

Do you have an idea for a session that you would like to see featured on the IACUC21 agenda? If so, we encourage you to contribute to the **IACUC21 Call for Conference Session Proposals Program**. Your input will ensure the Conference Planning Committee considers a broad and rich spectrum of topics and speakers.

Session proposals can be submitted for two categories:

1. Plenary Sessions:

- Plenary sessions cover higher-level ethics perspectives on timely, important, complex, and thought-provoking issues in research ethics, the use of animals in research, animal welfare, and animal research oversight. Proposals should cover multiple perspectives on ethical, conceptual, and policy issues of interest to a broad range of individuals involved in the animal subjects research enterprise.
- Formats can include, but are not limited to: panels (three speakers and a moderator), debates (two debaters and a moderator), and living room conversations (three to four speakers and a moderator).

2. Breakout sessions:

- Breakout sessions are smaller offerings on narrower topics. They tend to be more hands-on; attendees are there to learn best practices, discuss examples and case studies, and leave with practical strategies. The format is up to the speakers.
- Breakout sessions can be basic, advanced, or intended for all audiences.
- There will be five to six breakout session series, with approximately 10 sessions per series. Breakout sessions are organized by thematic tracks. Breakout sessions feature between two and three speakers, and we encourage a diversity of presenters on each session.

Submission Guidelines

- Complete the [online submission form](#) by **July 10, 2020**. **Ideas submitted after this date will not be considered.**
- **Only completed submissions will be reviewed** (i.e., all fields in the online form must be completed*). Include as much detail as you are able so the Conference Planning Committee can accurately assess the proposal. If you would like more information on the submission form, **see this PDF version** (Note: this document is for reference only; all proposals must be submitted via the online submission form).
- **Ensure your proposal has a diverse set of speaker perspectives** (i.e., proposals should feature speakers from different backgrounds, institutions, professional roles, etc., as attendees criticize sessions taught by people from the same institution/background). PRIM&R reserves the right to add speakers if it feels diversity is lacking.

**If you have a fully-fleshed out proposal, but don't have speaker recommendations, the Conference Planning Committees will review your proposal and select speakers for you if they accept the idea.*

Important Dates

Call for Conference Session Proposals opens	April 7, 2020
Call for Conference Session Proposals closes	July 10, 2020
Submitting authors informed of proposal status	December 11, 2020
2021 AER Conference (Denver, CO)	April 12-13 (preconference programs on April 11)

Important Information for Submission Authors

- The Conference Planning Committees will only review completed proposals submitted by **July 10, 2020**.
- PRIM&R reserves the right to tweak/edit accepted sessions proposals if changes are warranted. Any changes will be discussed with the author.
- Often, PRIM&R receives multiple proposals on the same topic. In those cases, PRIM&R reserves the right to ask proposal authors to work together on a single session on the topic. PRIM&R will discuss this possibility with the proposal authors before the agenda is published online.
- For breakout session proposals only: **Sessions will have two to three speakers only**. PRIM&R will make every effort to invite speakers listed on the proposal, but will **recommend alternate speakers if there is a lack of diversity** (see above; this will be discussed with the proposal author first). In most cases, **PRIM&R will only allow for one person per institution to serve on a session**, unless an argument can be made the session needs more than one person per institution.
- If a proposal is accepted, any speaker invited to teach is responsible for paying the speaker registration fee.
- Accepted proposals will be labeled as such on the agenda with an icon.

Frequently Asked Questions

Do I need to be a PRIM&R member to submit a conference session proposal?

No, but if you are interested in becoming a member, review the [range of benefits](#) that come with membership and contact [Kayla Parker](#), membership and database coordinator, to get started.

How do I submit a conference session proposal?

Complete the [online submission form](#) by **July 10, 2020**. Your proposal will undergo review by the Conference Planning Committee, and we will notify you of the status of your proposal by **December 11, 2020**. If you would like more information on the submission form, **see this PDF version (Note; all proposals must be submitted via the online submission form)**.

What is the difference between a proposal for a plenary session and a proposal for a breakout session?

Plenary sessions cover higher-level ethics perspectives on timely, important, complex, and thought-provoking issues in research ethics, the use of animals in research, animal welfare, and animal research oversight. Proposals should cover multiple perspectives on ethical, conceptual, and policy issues of interest to a broad range of individuals involved in the animal subjects research enterprise. See information above on possible formats.

Breakout sessions are smaller offerings narrower topics, and attendees are there to learn best practices, discuss examples and case studies, and leave with practical strategies. The format is up to the speakers, but content can be labeled basic, advanced, or for all audiences. Breakout sessions feature between two to three speakers.

May I submit more than one conference session proposal?

Yes, you may submit more than one conference session proposal, but you must submit a form for each proposal.

Are there any financial benefits for accepted conference session proposals?

If a session is accepted, any speakers invited will be charged a discounted rate on registration. If a proposal author attends the conference, but does not teach, they need to pay the full price on the conference. Call for session proposal sessions are acknowledged on the agenda with an icon.

When will I know if my conference session proposal has been accepted?

Notifications will be emailed by **December 11, 2020**.

Will the content of my proposed session change if it is accepted?

PRIM&R reserves the right to edit accepted proposals so they're in line with PRIM&R's style, formatting, etc. In addition, PRIM&R and the Conference Planning Committee reserve the right ask proposal authors to slightly modify their session content to help address perspectives/topics not present, but that could benefit the session overall. Finally, PRIM&R often receives multiple proposals on the same topic. In those cases, PRIM&R may ask proposal authors to work together on a single session on the topic. In those cases, authors are notified in advance of the agenda being published

How many speakers can I recommend for a session and will the speakers I recommend be chosen to teach?

PRIM&R assigns two to three speakers per session depending on the topic. Session proposal authors may recommend up to three speakers per session idea (including themselves). PRIM&R and the Conference Planning Committee will make every effort to invite the speakers listed on the proposal, but will recommend alternate speakers if there is a lack of diversity as noted above (this will be discussed with the submitting author first). In most cases, PRIM&R will only allow for one person per institution to teach on a session unless an argument can be made that the session needs more than one person per institution.

Can I still submit a conference session proposal if I don't have suggestions for session presenters?

Yes, we encourage submissions for sessions that would be of interest to our audience with or without speaker recommendations. For sessions that don't have speaker suggestions, the Conference Planning Committees will suggest individuals who can speak.

What are reasons for why conference session proposals are not accepted?

Reasons for why conference session proposals are not accepted include:

- The conference session proposal is incomplete (i.e., the proposal does not include enough information for the Conference Planning Committee to accurately assess the proposal).
- The conference session proposal does not apply to the audience.
- The conference session proposal is similar to a session already in planning by the Conference Planning Committees (i.e., sometimes, proposals come in for sessions offered at previous conferences and that the Conference Planning Committee is planning to use again).
- Each year, the Conference Planning Committee considers a wealth of ideas. Unfortunately, due to space restrictions on the agenda, we're not able to accept all ideas.

If you have questions about the submission process, contact Aizpea Murphy, conference assistant, via email at amurphy@primr.org.