

Health Communication Division

Vice-Chair & Program Planner: Emily Scheinfeld, escheinf@kennesaw.edu

The Health Communication Division invites papers, extended abstracts, and discussion panel proposals for competitive selection at the 2026 SSCA convention in Birmingham, Alabama. We especially welcome works that address the convention theme, “Comm-AI-nity: Conversations in the Age of Intelligence.”

The Health Communication Division of SSCA comprises scholars interested in the research, teaching, and practice of health communication, both within and outside the field of communication, who use communication to advance the physical, psychological, and spiritual well-being of individuals, relationships, and communities. The division encourages multidisciplinary and collaborative work that showcases the broad applications of health communication.

We invite paper and extended abstract poster submissions reflecting a wide range of health communication scholarship. The division embraces work from a diversity of paradigms and methodologies, and we welcome submissions from multiple traditions, including rhetorical, critical cultural, participatory action research, qualitative, and quantitative perspectives.

Engaging ideas for discussion panels/roundtables are also welcome. We encourage submitters to consider co-sponsored panels with any other division within SSCA. Collaborations with the Applied Communication, Communication Theory, Gender Studies, Interpersonal Communication, Intercultural Communication, Identity, Inclusion, and Social Justice, and Mass Communication divisions may be of particular interest.

Competitive Paper Submissions: All submissions must be electronically submitted to the SSCA convention site at <https://www.xcdsystem.com/ssca/member>. Please select the “Paper” option when submitting competitive papers.

Competitive paper submissions are completed research projects dealing with a substantive critical, methodological, or theoretical contribution. Submissions will consist of 1) the paper with all identifying information removed, 2) a separate cover page with the paper title, author(s) names, institutional affiliation(s), contact information, and an abstract of no more than 200 words. Papers should be no longer than 25 pages (excluding references, tables, figures, etc.).

In order for the paper to be assigned for review, please follow all of the instructions on the convention site. For the purpose of anonymous review, please omit all author-identifying information from the manuscript. All papers submitted will be considered for the Division’s Top Paper Award. For student papers, indicate “STUDENT” on the first page of the manuscript, and indicate “Student Paper” during the submission process. In order for a submission to be considered a student paper and to be eligible for student awards or recognition, the author or authors of the paper must all be students at the time the paper is submitted. The Division’s Top Student Paper will be submitted for consideration for the SSCA Bostrom Young Scholar Award.

Extended Abstract Poster Submissions: All submissions must be electronically submitted to the SSCA convention site at <https://www.xcdsystem.com/ssca/member>. Please select the “Poster” option when submitting extended abstract posters.

Extended abstract poster submissions are designed for projects that are fully conceptualized but prior to or in the early stages of analysis/interpretation/critique/data collection at the time of submission. For accepted submissions, it is expected that the completed project will be presented as a poster at the conference. Submissions will consist of a detailed summary that provides evidence of a fully rationalized research idea and description of methods and evidence to be analyzed. Extended abstracts should be no longer than 500-700 words (excluding references).

In order for the extended abstract to be assigned for review, please follow all of the instructions on the convention site. For the purpose of anonymous review, please omit all author-identifying information from the document. Extended abstracts are not eligible for the Division's top paper awards.

Discussion Panel/Roundtable Submissions: All submissions must be electronically submitted to the SSCA convention site at <https://www.xcdsystem.com/ssca/member>. Please select the "Panel" option when submitting discussion panel/roundtable proposals.

Discussion panel/round table proposals bring together a group of scholars and/or practitioners to discuss a topic or theme related to health communication. This type of session typically has between 4-7 experts who engage in dialogue about an engaging and emergent issue. Submissions must include 1) a session title, 2) an overall session rationale (no more than 200 words), 3) a list of participants' names with their institutional affiliations and contact information.

A best practice for all divisions is to submit discussion panel/roundtable proposals with diverse participants comprised of individuals representing different institutions, and where possible and relevant, potential new members of the division.

Pertinent to All Submissions: Submissions must be submitted online no later than 11:59 p.m. CST on **Monday, September 15, 2025**. Navigate to the paper submission site by going to the conference website (<https://www.xcdsystem.com/ssca/member>) and clicking the submission link. First time visitors to the site will need to create an account. Return visitors will need to make sure to use the same email address that they used to establish the account. To avoid technical problems, early submission is strongly advised. Any submission not meeting the above requirements will not be accepted for review. To maintain affordable conference rates, audio-visual support is extremely limited. It must be requested only if needed with supporting rationale and should be part of the submission to the division planner. Requests will be considered and are not guaranteed. If you have additional questions, please contact the Division Vice-Chair and Planner **Emily Scheinfeld** (escheinf@kennesaw.edu)s