

REQUEST FOR EDUCATIONAL SESSION PROPOSALS

Deadline:
November 3, 2023

Share Your Knowledge and Expertise

Education proposals are being accepted for the APHL 2024 Annual Conference. All proposals for educational sessions for the conference must be submitted through the proposal site. APHL is committed to providing needs-based education to support changes in knowledge, competence and performance to improve public health.

APHL membership and committees are invited to submit proposals for plenary, breakout and roundtable sessions. Attendees are from public health laboratories, governmental laboratories and other industry partners who wish to discuss issues relative to environmental health, emerging infectious diseases, emergency preparedness, informatics, food safety, newborn screening, global health, workforce development and other important laboratory topics.

APHL 2024 Sessions

This conference is an in-person only conference in Milwaukee, WI. No sessions will be presented virtually or online. Some sessions will be recorded for viewing at a later time. The conference consists of a member assembly, keynote sessions, plenary and breakout sessions, roundtables, posters and exhibits. Tentatively there will be 4 plenary sessions with 1 per time slot, 6 breakout time slots with 3–4 sessions per time slot and 2 roundtable time slots with 4 sessions per time slot.

Plenary or breakout sessions should be targeted to the major participant groups of APHL (state or local public health laboratories and environmental, food or agricultural laboratories).

- Plenary sessions are 60-minute sessions
- Breakout sessions are 60-minute sessions that run concurrently with other sessions

Sessions generally have a moderator and 2–3 speakers. Panel discussions or other interactive/informational sessions generally addressing a specific issue, program or core public health function may be appropriate. In addition, we are challenging presenters to include evidence-based science and participant interaction in the sessions.

Roundtables are small, informal 60-minute moderator guided discussions concerning hot topics on laboratory issues. The topics are usually focused on a single topic to facilitate discussion and participant interaction. Each roundtable will occupy a room with banquet rounds, flip charts and basic AV.

Proposal Selection Process

The APHL 2024 Planning Committee will determine the plenary, breakout and roundtable sessions by choosing from proposals submitted by the general membership and APHL committees. APHL committee proposals must be prioritized as there are limited time slots.

Proposal Submission

The submission process will be done online.

[Submit your proposal here](#)

(Follow the directions on the website.)

Proposals must be received by **Friday, November 3, 2023**.

Notification of the outcome will be made no later than Thursday, December 21, 2023.

Direct all questions to Terry Reamer at 240.485.2776 or terry.reamer@aphl.org.

Educational Topics of High Interest

Submitters are encouraged to focus on new knowledge, problems and solutions, and data. Sessions may focus on one topic area and highlight current challenges and problems. Submitters are not required to follow this suggestion. Educational topics of high interest include (but are not limited to):

Environmental topics

- *Environmental testing technologies and practices*
- *Biomonitoring and chemical threats*
- *Overdose surveillance — cannabis, opioids and controlled substances*
- *Wastewater surveillance*
- *Vector-borne disease surveillance*
- *PFAS and emerging chemicals*
- *Chemical threat response, radiochemistry*

Food and agricultural topics

- *Agricultural and veterinary testing technologies and practices*
- *Food safety and defense*
- *Regulatory science, compliance and investigations*
- *PFAS and emerging chemicals in food*

Infectious diseases and clinical topics

- *Diagnostics and new detection technologies*
- *Newborn screening and genetics*
- *Surveillance, outbreaks and emerging infectious diseases*
- *Laboratory automation*

Global laboratory systems and health security

- *Biosafety and biosecurity*
- *One Health approaches*
- *Impact of climate change on public health*
- *Pandemic preparedness, disease forecasting and emergency response*
- *Response to severe weather, floods, fire disasters*

Data Modernization Initiative

- *Data and analytics*
- *Informatics, LIMS, ITS, FHIR*
- *Next generation/long-read sequencing, metagenomics and bioinformatics*

Developing a Resilient Laboratory System

- *Procurement*
- *Building laboratory systems or renovating/building BSL-3*
- *Building and sustaining infrastructure*
- *Strengthening laboratory systems and strategic planning*
- *Lessons learned from past disease events*
- *Preparedness — natural disasters, human-made disasters*
- *Biosafety and biosecurity*

Laboratory Quality Systems

- *Accreditations*
- *Performance improvement projects*
- *NGS for CLIA*
- *Inspections best practices — CLIA, EPA, FDA, CAP, ISO, QMS*
- *Quality Assurance*
- *Proficiency testing, competency assessments and training*
- *Internal audits*

Leading with Purpose

- *Diversity, equity and inclusion*
- *Workforce development and retention*
- *Communications, advocacy and public relations*
- *Partnerships, academic, research and industry collaborations, training and outreach*
- *Experiential learning best practices for fellowship/internship experiences and mentoring*