CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

2027 SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

'Wherever We Are, Wherever We're Going'

PRE-CONFERENCE	ANNUAL CONFERENCE	FORMAT
Tuesday, May 25, 2027	May 26–27, 2027	Virtual

Share your work with the oncology social work community

The Association of Oncology Social Work (AOSW) welcomes scholarly submissions that advance psychosocial oncology care, strengthen professional practice, and encourage learning across care settings. The 2027 virtual conference will bring together social workers, patient navigators, researchers, educators, students, and colleagues to share evidence, creative approaches, and lessons from their work.

Abstracts may describe original research, evidence-informed practice, innovative interventions, quality improvement, education, supervision, advocacy, and program development. Submissions should make clear what attendees will learn and how the work contributes to oncology social work.

Important dates + submission details

Abstract portal opens	Monday, November 23, 2026
Abstract submission deadline	Tuesday, January 19, 2027
Notifications / presenter acceptance	Friday, February 18, 2027
Pre-conference	Tuesday, May 25, 2027
Annual Conference	Wednesday, May 26 -Thursday, May 27, 2027

General information

- All abstracts undergo peer review.
- Proofread before you submit: Accepted abstracts are published exactly as submitted, and changes are not allowed after the submission deadline. Review grammar, spelling, formatting, credentials, author details, and data carefully.

Submission platform

NEW Abstract Submission Portal: AOSW is using a new online portal for abstract submissions. Log in to create a new account and start, edit, and submit your abstract. You may save your abstract as 'Pending' and return at any time to complete and submit it.

Prepare your abstract

- Use clear, accessible language and present a scholarly contribution.
- State the problem or gap, describe what you did or examined, and explain outcomes and relevance to oncology social work.
- Submissions with preliminary findings are welcome in the research category when actual findings are reported.

Core submission and formatting guidance

Abstract length	Maximum word/character count is 800
Title	Provide a concise, specific title that accurately reflects your session or project.
Author information	Enter author names, credentials, affiliations, and presenter information in designated portal fields.
Blind review	Do not include names, organizations, or other identifying information within the abstract narrative, including references to specific individuals, hospitals, nonprofit organizations, or companies.
Abbreviations + claims	Define nonstandard abbreviations. Support clinical claims and avoid promotional language.
Learning objectives	Include clear, measurable learning objectives if requested by the submission form.
References + attachments	References must be submitted in APA format. At least 50% of the references, or five references, whichever is fewer, should be current within five years of the presentation. For May 2027, this generally means sources published in 2022 or later. Upload requirements and accepted file formats will be specified in the submission portal.

Recommended abstract structure

SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE ABSTRACTS

- **Background/need**: Define the practice challenge, audience, or care setting.
- **Objectives**: State the intended clinical or professional improvement.
- **Approach**: Describe the intervention, implementation, or practice method.
- **Outcomes/lessons**: Summarize observations, measures, or practical results.
- **Implications**: Explain relevance, transferability, and next steps.

RESEARCH ABSTRACTS

- **Background/objectives:** State the question, hypothesis, or study aim.
- **Methods**: Describe study design, sample, data collection, and analysis.
- **Results**: Report completed or preliminary findings, including key data.
- **Conclusions**: Interpret findings and implications for oncology social work.
- Do not promise results that have not yet been obtained.

Tips for a stronger submission

Show what is new or useful; go beyond a general description of a program.

- Explain why the work matters to oncology social work across settings or populations.
- Use concrete findings, examples, or evaluation measures where available.
- Align methods, results, conclusions, and proposed audience learning.

Select your presentation format

Select the option that best fits the work and the way attendees will learn.

Pre-Conference Workshop	A presentation designed to actively involve attendees in structured activities, small or large group processes, simulation, and/or other training components. Presentation must have evidence of a meaningful rationale and/or theoretical base underlying the activities, as well as information regarding the active and meaningful experience planned for attendees. This presentation invites you to present a half-day comprehensive pre-conference workshop and is intended as a more advanced skills training. Presentation structure must include introducing the rationale and/or theoretical base of the planned experience; active involvement of the attendees in the experience; debriefing; and questions. *Time: Half day - 4 hours*

Practice Intensive	A two-part Learning Institute, comprised of two 60-minute sessions, the Practice Intensives allow you to get more in-depth, thorough training from content experts. *Time: 2 hours - Two 60-minute sessions*
Panel Symposium	A Panel Symposium brings together 3–5 presenters whose abstracts address a common topic. Presenters will share their individual work and perspectives, followed by moderated discussion exploring the validity, value, and applicability of the topic. Presentation time for each participant will vary depending on the number of presenters included in the symposium. **Note:** Authors may submit as a group and indicate their interest in a Panel Symposium during the abstract submission process. The Conference Committee may also group abstracts with similar or complementary content into a Panel Symposium. If abstracts are grouped by the Committee, only the lead author of each abstract will present. *Time: 60 minutes – 5 minutes for introducing the topic, 40 minutes for discussion/ presentation by the presenters, and 15 minutes for summary and questions from the audience.*
Learning Institute	A Learning Institute provides attendees with an active, hands-on learning experience. Sessions may incorporate structured activities, small- or large-group exercises, simulations, and other interactive training methods. Proposals should clearly describe the rationale and/or theoretical foundation for the workshop, the activities attendees will participate in, and how those activities will create a meaningful learning experience. *Time: 60 minutes – 10 minutes for introducing the rationale and/or theoretical base of the planned experience, 40 minutes for active involvement of the attendees in the experience, and 10 minutes for debriefing and questions.*
Paper Presentation	A Paper Presentation explores new or emerging issues, trends, perspectives, best practices, and/or models in oncology social work through a theoretical or research-based framework. Proposals should clearly explain the relevance of the theory or research to the topic. When applicable, presentations should include original research and demonstrate how the work relates to existing research or theory or addresses an identified gap in research or practice. SIG Presentations: Specialty Interest Groups (SIGs) may submit papers for consideration as part of the educational program. SIG networking opportunities will be scheduled separately within the conference program. *Time: 60 minutes – 45 minutes for presenting the information, and 15 minutes for dialogue with attendees.*
Poster Presentation	A Poster Presentation is an opportunity to share research, findings, ideas, or practice-based information with colleagues in an informal setting. Posters typically focus on one central topic and are designed to communicate key information, encourage discussion, and allow attendees to explore the material at their own pace. *Virtual poster logistics TBD*

Suggested topic areas

Topics may include clinical practice and research; psychosocial oncology across the cancer continuum; diversity, equity, inclusion, and access; ethics; leadership and professional development; innovative programs and quality improvement; patient navigation; supervision and field instruction; advocacy and health policy; technology, virtual care, and responsible uses of artificial intelligence. Other relevant topics are encouraged.

Word Count Limits

- Abstract Body: 800 words
- Abstract Summary: 250 words

- Learning Objectives: 300 words each

Presentation assignment

AOSW may offer an accepted submission in a format different from the one requested to meet educational and program needs. Presenters should be prepared to participate in the assigned virtual format.

How abstracts are reviewed

All submissions will be reviewed anonymously by at least three reviewers with relevant practice or research expertise. Each criterion is scored from 1 (poor) to 5 (outstanding). The Conference Committee considers scores and program needs when making selection decisions.

SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE — FIVE CRITERIA

- Contribution to the oncology social work knowledge base.
- Clarity of practice objectives.
- Definition of a relevant issue, population, and/or intervention.
- Quality of the implementation or practice description (e.g., program operation, policy, new technique, QI, measures).
- Appropriateness of conclusions, practice implications, and/or future directions.

RESEARCH — SIX CRITERIA

- Contribution to the oncology social work knowledge base.
- Clarity of study objectives, questions, and/or hypotheses.
- Appropriateness of study design, sampling, measurement, data collection, and analysis.
- Quality and clarity of reported findings.
- Conclusions and implications supported by the findings.
- Presence of completed or preliminary results / findings.

What reviewers will look for

- Clear alignment between the stated purpose, methods or approach, and conclusions.
- Evidence-informed content and enough detail to evaluate the work.
- Practical value to the oncology social work community.
- Respectful, accurate, and unbiased presentation of findings and populations.

Selection and communication

AOSW may establish a minimum review score before further consideration and may reclassify presentation formats based on the overall program. The final schedule will be determined by the Conference Committee. Notification date is February 18, 2027. Selection decisions are communicated by email through AOSW's submission process and are not released to unrelated third parties.

Be sure your abstract is ready for blind review

Provide author and affiliation information only in designated fields. Avoid identifying your own institution in the abstract text when that information would reveal the author(s).

Scholarly, ethical + disclosure requirements

References and continuing education standards

Practice and research presentations must be scholarly and evidence-informed. AOSW requests references in APA format and that at least 50% of the reference list, or five references (whichever is fewer), should be current within five years of the presentation. For May 2027, this generally means sources published in 2022 or later.

Research integrity, privacy, and commercial independence

- Report research design and findings accurately; do not present proposed analyses as completed results.

- Follow applicable institutional review, privacy, and consent requirements. Remove patient-identifying details unless appropriately authorized.
- Disclose relevant financial and other relationships as requested by AOSW; content must be free from commercial promotion or bias.
- Secure permission for any copyrighted visuals, recordings, instruments, or other third-party content used in the session.
- For proposed ethics or cultural competency CE designations, ensure content genuinely addresses the applicable learning standards.

Use of artificial intelligence

AOSW requires submitters to disclose material use of generative AI in developing the abstract or analyzing data, including the purpose of use. AI tools should not be credited as authors. All authors remain responsible for the accuracy, originality, confidentiality, and integrity of their work.

Presenter responsibilities

- A maximum of two submissions as lead author is permitted; authors may be named in additional submissions in another role.
- Presenters must register for the conference and pay the applicable registration fee. There is no honorarium or expense reimbursement for presenters.
- Accepted presenters must be available at the assigned time during the conference or pre-conference program; requests for a particular date or time may not be accommodated.
- AOSW does not allow presenters to reassign their sessions or materially change content without authorization; the lead or secondary author must present accepted posters.
- AOSW may include accepted summaries in the conference program or promotional materials and may edit summaries for those uses.

Submitting your abstract

1. **Choose your track and format:** Decide whether the work should be reviewed as Social Work Practice or Research, and select the most appropriate presentation format.
2. **Prepare your information:** Have your title, anonymized abstract, authors, affiliations, objectives, supporting references, and any requested disclosures ready.
3. **Open the 2027 submission portal:** Follow the link. Create a new submission-system account requested by the portal.
4. **Review, submit, and verify:** Proofread the complete entry and complete the final submission step before the published deadline. Retain the receipt or submission confirmation and check spam/junk folders if needed.

Final pre-submission checklist

- ✓ The abstract fits the appropriate practice or research review category.
- ✓ The title, objectives, methods or implementation, findings, and conclusions agree.
- ✓ Author-identifying information is excluded from the blind-review text.
- ✓ References are accurate and complete, with current sources where required.
- ✓ Relevant privacy, permissions, conflicts, and disclosure requirements are addressed.
- ✓ The selected format is suitable for virtual presentation and the final portal limit is met.
- ✓ The submission has actually been submitted, not merely saved as a draft.

Abstract mentorship

AOSW welcomes requests for mentorship at any stage—from choosing a topic and presentation type to reviewing an abstract before submission. Early-career oncology social workers are especially encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity. To request a mentor, email info@aosw.org. Availability and matching instructions will be confirmed by AOSW.

Resources + questions

- **2027 conference**: https://aosw.org/annual-conference/2027-annual-conference/
- **Conference objectives and formats**: https://aosw.org/annual-conference/conference-objectives/
- **Sample abstract**: https://aosw.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/23-0069.pdf
- **Ethics and cultural competency designations**: https://aosw.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/Acceptable-Content-for-Ethics-and-Cultural-Competency-Designations-as-outlined-by-ASWB.pdf
- **Questions and mentorship**: info@aosw.org