

ASPEN Nutrition Science & Practice Conference Call for Abstracts

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1. Key Dates, Abstract Types, and Submission Site

Submission opens: July 12, 2023

Submission closes: September 13, 2023, at 11:59 pm ET.

Abstract Types and Submission fees*

Student Abstract - Please select the student abstract type if the **presenting author** of the abstract has a student status (is a student) at the time of abstract submission.

Definition: ASPEN identifies a student as an individual who is a full-time undergraduate or graduate student, as defined by the individual's institution. Trainees, those in an internship, residency, post-doctoral or other fellowship program are **NOT** considered students and must submit a non-student abstract. Any individual who submits a student abstract and is found to be ineligible given the student criteria, will have their abstract withdrawn without a refund of the submission fee.

- Student Early Bird Submission Fee: \$50 until August 30, 2023, at 11:59 pm ET
- Student Standard Submission Fee: \$100 from August 31 – September 13, 2023, at 11:59 pm ET

**If you are unsure whether the presenting author qualifies as a student, please contact Elizabeth Abram at elizabetha@nutritioncare.org.*

Non-student Abstract - Please select the non-student abstract type if the presenting author of the abstract does not have a student status (is not a student) at the time of abstract submission.

- Non-student Early Bird Submission Fee: \$70 until August 30, 2023, at 11:59 PM ET
- Non-student Standard Submission Fee: \$120 from August 31 - September 13, 2023, at 11:59 PM ET

Submission fees are administrative fees and are not meant to be punitive in nature. Submission fees are **NOT refundable for any reason. There is only one abstract submission period. All abstracts must be submitted by September 13, 2023 at 11:59 pm ET to be considered. There will be no late-breaking submission period.*

Notification of abstract status will be provided in Mid-November of the submission year.

To submit an abstract, please visit <https://nutritioncare.org/ASPEN24Abstracts> and follow the instructions provided. Please note, abstract submitters must create a new account for the submission site each year. Submitter and/or author information is not transferred from year to year.

For questions on abstract submission, contact Elizabeth Abram at elizabetha@nutritioncare.org.

2. Abstract Submission Options

Original Abstracts - *unpublished basic or clinical research and data, practice abstracts, retrospective studies, vignettes, or case studies.* Research methodology may range from prospective, randomized trials, and systematic reviews to quality improvement projects and unique case reports. Depending on review score, these abstracts may be presented in poster sessions or paper sessions. Original abstracts are eligible for [Original Abstract Research Awards](#): Harry M. Vars and Promising Investigator, Research Trainee, Best International Abstract, Best of ASPEN Nutrition Science & Practice Conference, and Abstracts of Distinction. **You must OPT-IN to be considered for the Vars/ Promising Investigator, Trainee and International Awards.**

Encore Abstracts - Encore Abstracts are those which have been presented previously at another conference or which have been published (or will be published) 6 months prior to the abstract submission deadline. These abstracts will be presented as posters and are not eligible for Original Abstract Research Awards, except Best of ASPEN Nutrition Science & Practice Conference and Abstract of Distinction.

International Abstracts – *submitted original or encore abstracts, in which the research took place; and the investigator resides in a country other than the United States.* In addition to the awards noted above, Original International Abstracts are eligible for the International Abstract Research Awards: Best International Abstract or International Abstract of Distinction. **Submitters must opt-in at the time of online abstract submission to be eligible for awards.**

3. Abstract Topics

During the online abstract submission process, you will be asked to categorize your abstract according to ASPEN’s six primary abstract topic areas to ensure that your abstract is reviewed appropriately. Please review **Table 1** below that summarizes these six groups of research in nutrition therapy and metabolism that ASPEN typically accepts. You will need to select at least one, but no more than three topic areas that are most relevant to your abstract. **The list is not all inclusive; you should select the best fit for your abstract.**

Table 1. Abstract Topic Areas

Group # 1 Parenteral Nutrition Therapy	access devices acid-base chronic / degenerative disease and PN compatibility complications diabetes – glucose control disease or condition specific PN drug–nutrient interaction fluid - electrolyte funding & reimbursement	home / alternate site indications lipid formulations macro & micronutrients monitoring nutrition support teams (related to PN) quality control & improvement (related to PN) safety shortages & alternative products stability
Group # 2 Enteral Nutrition Therapy	access devices chronic / degenerative disease and EN complications diabetes – glucose control disease or condition specific EN drug- nutrient interactions formulas funding & reimbursement	home and alternate site indications macro & micronutrients monitoring nutrition support teams (related to EN) quality control & improvement (related to EN) reimbursement safety
Group # 3 Malnutrition, Obesity, Nutrition Practice Concepts and Issues	bariatrics bariatric surgery and complications body composition complementary & alternative medicine chronic diseases and nutrition related to malnutrition education ethics evidence-based practice exercise physiology guidelines	malnutrition malnutrition coding metabolic syndrome nutrition and taste obesity payers and malnutrition nutrition assessment nutrition support teams related to malnutrition or obesity quality control & improvement related to malnutrition or obesity- bariatric

Group # 4 Critical Care and Critical Health Issues	burns cancer cardiac critical care immunodeficiency and immunonutrition infection inflammation intestinal failure perioperative concerns (glucose control, CHO loading)	pharmaconutrition (related to critical care and critical health issues) pulmonary sepsis trauma wounds surgery transplant
Group # 5 GI and Other Nutrition and Metabolic- Related Topics	allergies basic nutrient research biotics cholestasis chronic & degenerative disease endocrine gastroenterology geriatrics gut microbiota hepatic and pancreatic disease and conditions insufficiency	IBD metabolic pathways metabolomics nutrigenomics neurological disorders osteoporosis pharmacokinetics pharmaconutrition pancreatic insufficiency (cystic fibrosis) renal short bowel
Group # 6 Pediatric, Neonatal, Pregnancy, and Lactation	ketogenic diet NEC neonatal neonatal bone NICU & PICU	pediatric malnutrition pediatric short bowel PNALD pregnancy & lactation

4. Abstract Methodology Types/Categories

You will need to select the single methodology category that most closely represents your abstract.

Research Methodology	Examples
Basic Science	“Bench research” <i>In vitro</i> studies or animal research
Clinical Science	Observational or interventional clinical trials, case-controlled or case studies, registry driven analyses, qualitative studies
Education, Quality Control & Improvement	Education or quality improvement programs, non-scientific surveys, programmatic communication
Meta-analyses, Systematic Review	Meta-analysis or Systematic Review of other studies

All ASPEN Nutrition Science & Practice Conference abstracts must present qualitative or quantitative data that are directly relevant to the topic of the abstract. **Abstracts describing only methodologies, concepts, or other topics will not be accepted without accompanying data or results.** Case studies are exempt from the requirement for extensive data but must be unique, providing learning points or unusual clinical presentations.

Research Agenda - In 2018, ASPEN's [Research Agenda](#) was updated and published. This document will familiarize abstract authors with investigative priorities established by our Society. Authors are encouraged to be aware of and, when possible, submit abstracts reflecting these core research areas. Please note that this is not a requirement, but rather a statement of ASPEN's priority research interests.

5. Disclosure Information and Off-label Discussion

Financial disclosure information is required for **all authors** at the time of submission of the abstract. If any of the abstract authors have financial relationships with any ineligible company (definition below) within the past 24 months.

* **An ineligible company** is any entity whose primary business is producing, marketing, selling, re-selling, or distributing healthcare products used by or on patients. For specific examples of ineligible companies visit accme.org/standards.

There is no minimum financial threshold. All financial relationships, regardless of the amount or potential relevance of each relationship to the education or event, should be disclosed.

The following needs to be submitted for each financial relationship:

- **Ineligible Company name.**
- **Nature of the financial relationship.** (Examples of financial relationships include employee, researcher, consultant, advisor, speaker, independent contractor, including contracted research, royalties or patent beneficiary, executive role, and ownership interest)
- **Financial relationship status.**

Providing accurate disclosure information is mandatory, and failure to do so will result in an inability to participate in the conference programming in any capacity.

If the abstract discusses off-label uses (product applications that are not approved by the U.S. FDA) of licensed pharmaceutical or medical device products, the authors will need to identify the product and the nature of off-label use.

The submitting author is responsible for submitting a disclosure on behalf of all authors listed in the submission. The submitting author can utilize the [Conflict of Interest Downloadable Form](#) to collect the necessary details from all authors to allow for ease of entry of information into the submission platform.

Please note, all author financial disclosures must be submitted through the online abstract submission system.

6. Presentation Type

You must choose one of the following options as your presentation preference:

- oral presentation
- poster presentation
- either oral or poster

The Abstract Review Committee will try to accommodate preferences, but the final presentation type will be dependent on the score the abstract received. Please note, selection of an oral presentation, if accepted, requires travel to the 2024 conference to present the presentation orally and in person.

7. Abstract Writing Standards

Presenting Author - The presenting author is required to attend the ASPEN Nutrition Science & Practice Conference if the abstract is accepted. This is particularly important for those who wish to Opt-in for consideration for the Vars Award. There are no financial stipends available to cover expenses.

Abstract Character Count - **A maximum of 3780 characters, approximately 500 words, including spaces and punctuation is allowed.** This does not include the title and author/institution list.

Accuracy, Grammar, Spelling - If accepted, YOUR ABSTRACT WILL BE PUBLISHED AS SUBMITTED. *You are 100% responsible for spelling, grammar, and scientific accuracy.*

Tables and Figures – It is important that you follow these instructions as well as those in the submission site. The maximum total number of combined tables and figures you may submit is **4**, with a maximum of **2** simple tables. **DO NOT** exceed your figure limit if you are submitting tables. Do not try to put multiple complex tables into a single image file. Utilize the following upload format:

Table Upload Format (maximum of 2 tables):

- Tables must be submitted in one of the following formats: png, tif, jpg, and gif.
- Create tables using the Tables function in Word in Times New Roman, 12 point font. When exporting tables to image format, they must be 600 dpi for print reproduction.
- Tables should NOT include art or illustrations, shading, or underlining.
- Tables must be numbered (e.g., Table 1, Table 2), include a title (above the table), footnotes (if applicable), and be called out in the body of your abstract.
- When converting to the appropriate image file types, please crop out unnecessary white space.

Figure Upload Format (maximum of 4):

- Figures must be submitted in one of the following formats: png, tif, jpg, and gif.
- Images (e.g., photos, illustrations, radiographs, imaging outputs like MRI, ultrasound) must be at least 300 dpi for print reproduction.
- Line art (e.g., flowcharts, graphs, diagrams, scatter plots) must be at least 600 dpi for print reproduction.
- Text/labels in figures must be in a sans serif font (e.g., Arial, Calibri) and be large enough to be clearly legible (e.g., between 8 and 14 points) when images are resized during page layout.
- Figures must be numbered (e.g., Figure 1, Figure 2), include a title/caption (below the figure), and be called out in the body of your abstract.
- When converting to the appropriate image file types, please crop out unnecessary white space.

If your figures/tables do not meet the above requirements, ASPEN will remove them from your abstract and exclude them from publication!

Free graphics software include: www.irfanview.com; www.gimp.org; www.getpaint.net. **If your images are not readable after submission, they may not accompany the published version of your abstract in *JPEN*.**

Author Personal Information - When submitting an abstract provide the following information for all authors:

- Prefix
- First and Last Name
- Credentials/Degree (e.g. MD, PhD, RD, RN, RPh, PharmD, MBBS, etc.)
- Position/Job title; Institution/organization
- Business address including City, State/Province, Country
- Email Address
- [Conflict of Interest Disclosure Information](#) (must be entered into the abstract submission site)
- Primary Discipline
- ASPEN Membership Status (yes or no)

Abstract Revisions - You may login to the [submission site](https://nutritioncare.confex.com/nutritioncare/aspens24/cfp.cgi) or type the URL <https://nutritioncare.confex.com/nutritioncare/aspens24/cfp.cgi> into your browser as many times as necessary to complete the submission process until the submission deadline. Once a new submission is started, you will be emailed an ID and Password for each submission. ASPEN will only review your abstract if you have completed the submission process, including the payment step, by the submission deadline. **Revisions will NOT be accepted after the submission deadline.**

8. Abstract Acceptance Criteria

ASPEN Nutrition Science & Practice Conference abstracts must meet the following criteria for acceptance:

- Abstract submitted in English, including tables/charts and figures
- Relevance and uniqueness of the study or presentation to the field of nutrition therapy and metabolic support
- Authors are encouraged to submit abstracts that: address unique or emerging nutritional issues; contribute new information to the field; show strong applicability to or improvement of nutrition therapy practice or metabolic support
- Clarity of the introduction, hypothesis, or purpose for the study or presentation
- Quality of the research design and methodology
- If relevant, the hypothesis is clearly stated
- Methods are clear and appropriate
- Sufficient sample size to validate conclusions
- Investigators took measures to control for threats to validity and reliability
- Validity and sufficiency of the data
- Enough data or findings to form conclusions
- If relevant, statistical analysis of the data is appropriate
- Study was completed
- Relevance of the conclusions to the data
- Case studies and vignettes are exempt from the requirement for extensive data; however, must be unique, providing learning points or unusual clinical presentations
- Abstract carefully reviewed for spelling, grammar and formatting
- Abstract is free of promotional material, and it is not commercial in nature
- **Brand names for products or services are not mentioned in the title, but may be mentioned once in the methodology section**
- **Research involving lipid injectable emulsions (ILE) must appropriately abbreviate the product type per [ASPEN's ILE abbreviation list](#)**

9. Abstract Selection Process

Review and Selection Process - The ASPEN Abstract Review Committee conducts a rigorous peer review of all abstracts submitted. On average, ASPEN accepts approximately 85 - 90 percent of all abstracts submitted. There will be no reconsideration of non-accepted abstracts. Abstracts are selected for poster presentations or oral presentations. There is no refund of the submission fee if the abstract is not accepted.

If your abstract has been accepted for presentation, but you are unable to attend ASPEN Nutrition Science & Practice Conference, contact Elizabeth Abram at ASPEN as soon as possible at elizabetha@nutritioncare.org. You will have two options: 1) Designate a co-author on the abstract as the

new presenting author; or 2) Withdraw the abstract. Once all abstracts have been reviewed and decided upon, they can no longer be withdrawn, no exceptions. Refunds will not be issued for abstracts that are withdrawn.

10. Abstract Publication and Copyright

All accepted abstracts are published online in the [Journal of Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition \(JPEN\)](#)

Original Research- You will be asked to transfer the abstract copyright to *JPEN*, ASPEN's scientific journal, for your original abstract. All authors must agree to this. Read further instructions in the online system.

Federal Employees- Federal employees may select the box indicating there is no copyright to convey.

Encore Abstracts - Encore abstracts (previously presented at another conference or submitted to a journal **no more than 6 months prior** to the abstract submission deadline can be submitted but will not qualify for Original Abstract Research Awards and will be presented as posters. If you are submitting an encore abstract, you will advise ASPEN via in the abstract submission site. **You must provide the name of the conference and the date it was presented and/or the full citation.** In either case (published or presented), if you wish to have ASPEN republish your work in *JPEN* online, we must have formal re-publication (re-print) permission from the conference organizer or journal publisher, whoever holds the copyright for the abstract. **It is your responsibility to obtain permission to re-print** your work from the copyright owner, and to submit it to ASPEN, elizabetha@nutritioncare.org. **If permissions are not received by December 20, 2023, your abstract title, author list, and encore status will be published without the abstract text.** If the previous conference/journal did not take copyright, there is an option indicating that you have the right to convey it to ASPEN.

11. Submission/Registration & Travel Fees

Submission Fees- The cost of submission for Original, Encore, and International Abstracts for Students is \$50 per abstract during the early bird submission period and \$100 during the standard submission period. For Non-Students, it is \$70 per abstract during the early bird submission period and \$120 during the standard submission period. If an abstract is not accepted, the cost of submission will NOT be refunded. Abstracts that are voluntarily withdrawn will NOT have the submission fee refunded.

Registration & Travel Fees- ASPEN will make every effort to notify all abstract authors of their acceptance status prior to the early-bird registration deadline. You are encouraged, however, to register for the ASPEN Nutrition Science & Practice Conference when registration opens this Winter. If the early-bird deadline has passed, ASPEN may extend it for abstract authors. Individuals who have an abstract accepted into the conference program as a poster or oral presentation are responsible for their own travel and conference registration expenses.

12. Original Abstract Research Awards

Abstract Awards Consideration - You must opt in to be considered for most Original Abstract Research Awards. There are some obligations associated with the awards, and you must certify that you acknowledge and will accept those obligations if your abstract is selected. Detailed information regarding the obligations is included in the online submission system.

ASPEN offers the following awards:

Harry M. Vars Award and Promising Investigator Award

General Overview:

- Recognizes and honors an Early Career Investigator (details below) who has submitted a top-scoring original abstract and demonstrates excellence via a manuscript and oral presentation at the ASPEN Nutrition Science & Practice Conference Premier Paper Session.
- The Vars recipient and the runner up in the competition, the Promising Investigator, may be awarded cash prizes.

Vars and Promising Investigator Candidates Are Chosen According to the Following:

- Candidates have chosen to participate in the Vars competition by opting in on the Abstract Submission Site.
- The candidate has submitted an Original Abstract (abstract represents original work that is presented for the first time at the ASPEN Nutrition Science & Practice Conference). Abstracts presented at other national meetings will not be considered.
- The abstract score as determined by the Abstract Review Committee.
- The quality of the candidate's manuscript including technical writing, level of research innovation as [defined by the NIH](#), and alignment of research to ASPEN.
- Presentation and responses to questions at the ASPEN Nutrition Science & Practice Conference Premier Paper Session.

The presentation evaluation criteria include:

- Command of material; expertise commensurate with level of experience and training
- Appropriateness of slides, organization, and format of talk
- Clearly states background, relevance, and rationale for the study
- Clearly states hypothesis, study design, and methodology
- Presents data and results relevant to research questions/study aims
- Presents complicated concepts & results at level understandable to general audience
- Summarizes appropriately; findings interpreted with appropriate level of caution and understanding of results within the context of current literature
- Presents clearly with obvious preparation and control
 - Appropriately responds to questions and discussion during Q/A
- Input from the audience via popular vote

The Promising Investigator Award is given to the runner-up for the Vars Award. Selection is based on the same evaluation criteria.

Vars and Promising Investigator Candidates must comply with the following Criteria and Responsibilities:

- The presenting author is specified at the time of abstract submission and will attend the ASPEN Nutrition Science & Practice Conference to present their abstract at the Premier Paper Session. The presenter/Vars candidate must be listed as the first author in the author list and if an unexpected event occurs prior to the conference that prevents that Vars candidate from presenting, ASPEN has the authority to make other arrangements on a case-by-case basis.
- The presenting author is an **Early Career Investigator** (he/she is within 10 years of completing a terminal research degree, medical residency, end of post-graduate clinical training, must be at a career level of assistant professor (or the equivalent) or lower, and is the primary contributor to the research represented in the abstract.
- The presenter must not have obtained funding (other than career development awards/young investigator awards) from a large governing research body such as the NIH or equivalent in the US or another country. [Please check the NIH list to verify US affiliated awards.](#)
- A manuscript based on the candidate's abstract will be produced and submitted to *JPEN* prior to the

stated submission deadline. On behalf of ASPEN and the Research Committee, it is recommended that each candidate submits their manuscript for detailed proof reading to ensure academic and written English proficiency prior to submission to *JPEN*. Failure to meet the deadline will result in disqualification of the candidate. Note: Manuscript submission does not guarantee acceptance by *JPEN* editors.

- All candidates will attend the ASPEN Nutrition Science & Practice Conference to present their abstract in the Premier Paper Session.
 - All candidates must also attend the Rhoads Lecture and Awards Ceremony in preparation for the Vars Award or Promising Investigator Award recipient announcement. One candidate will receive the Vars Award and the runner up will receive the Promising Investigator Award.
2. **Research Trainee Awards** – honor investigators still in training who have submitted top-scoring original abstracts to the ASPEN Nutrition Science & Practice Conference. Recipients may be awarded cash prizes.
 3. **International Abstract Research Awards** – honors international investigators who have submitted top-scoring original abstracts to the ASPEN Nutrition Science & Practice Conference.

Awards not requiring opt-in:

4. **Abstracts of Distinction** – Awards given to first authors of top-scoring abstracts that display extraordinary originality, explore new aspects of a topic, and/or investigate unique aspects of a subject. Submitters are not required to opt-in to compete for this award.
5. **Best of ASPEN Nutrition Science & Practice Conference.** For each of ASPEN's six abstract categories (Parenteral, Enteral, Malnutrition/Obesity/Practice Concepts, Critical Care, GI, Pediatric/ Neonatal), the presenting author of the top-scoring (non-Vars candidates) will be acknowledged with a certificate and will be published in *JPEN* awarded abstracts. Winning Encore must provide ASPEN with permission to reprint their abstracts from the copyright owner prior to December 20, 2023.

Abstract Type	Abstract Research Award Eligibility				
	Vars/Promising Investigator	Research Trainee	International	Abstracts of Distinction	Best of ASPEN Nutrition Science & Practice Conference
Original	Yes	Yes	Yes*	Yes*	Yes*
Encore	No	No	No	Yes	Yes

***Submitters whose abstracts are selected as Vars Candidates are not eligible**

For more information, visit [ASPEN's Research Awards](https://www.nutritioncare.org/Research/Awards/Research_Awards/) webpage or type the URL https://www.nutritioncare.org/Research/Awards/Research_Awards/ into your browser.

13. Resources

The following resources are available to assist with preparation of ASPEN Nutrition Science & Practice Conference abstracts.

- [ASPEN's Physical Poster instructions](#)
**If applicable, ePoster instructions will be provided separately post acceptance notifications.*
- [Poster Templates and Printing](#)

[Research Agenda 2018: The American Society for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition](#)

Journal of Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition

Volume 42 Number 5

July 2018 838–844

