AIM 2026

Health R&D Summit

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

Online Abstract Submission

Deadline: 11:59 P.M. CST, Friday, February 20, 2026

AIM 2026 Health R&D Summit

Overview

San Antonio, Texas is a unique city that serves as a national leader in government and civilian healthcare research. This leadership is driven by organizations including the University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA), San Antonio Military Health System (SAMHS), Saint Mary's University, the University of the Incarnate Word (UIW), Southwest Research Institute, Texas Biomedical Research Institute, and the Veterans Administration (VA).

Together, these institutions invite you to the **Third Annual AIM Health R&D Summit**, a conference that attracts presenters from across the nation to showcase the work of students, trainees, faculty, and staff. The conference will be held **May 19, 2026**, at the **Henry B. González Convention Center** in downtown San Antonio.

The AIM Health R&D Summit brings together **A**cademia, **I**ndustry, and **M**ilitary researchers to advance collaborative research efforts that improve health outcomes and operational readiness. The summit provides opportunities for all participants to present and share scientific discoveries, clinical practice innovations, and health policy research. Attendees will also engage with scholars and practitioners from SAMHS and local and national academic institutions, as well as representatives from public, government, private, small business, and industry partners.

The conference Scientific Research Committee invites you to participate in the AIM Health R&D Summit and present your research, results, and perspectives across a broad range of themes—from battlefield health and trauma to precision medicine and emerging technologies.

Submit your abstract by Friday, February 20, 2026, and join us in shaping the future of research, clinical practice, and healthcare. Together, we can drive meaningful change.

General Abstract Submission Guidelines

The AIM Research and Development Summit 2026 invites you to submit an abstract for consideration and share your cutting-edge basic, translational and clinical research as a podium or poster presentation at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center on May 19, 2026. Submit abstracts through the [AIM 2026 Abstract Submission Website](#) by Friday**, February 20, 2026 at 11:59 P.M. CST.**

After submission of your abstract(s), ***participants must register to attend*** via the AIM Health R&D Summit 2026 [Website](#) meeting [Registration Form](#).

Thematic Areas

1. Aging/Healthy Aging
2. AI and Ethics in Clinical Decision-Making
3. Biomedical Instrumentation, Robotics, Sensors, and Smart Diagnostics
4. Biomedical Research
5. Climate-Resilient Health Systems
6. Community-Driven Research Models
7. Dental Research Innovations
8. Digital Health Equity
9. Emergency Medicine
10. Environmental Exposures
11. Health Systems Research and Policy Innovation
12. Human Performance
13. Infectious Disease Prevention and Management
14. Innovative Non-animal Approaches for Research
15. Neurotrauma and TBI Recovery
16. Nursing Research and Innovations
17. Pain Research and Neurobiology
18. Precision Medicine, Bioinformatics and AI
19. Regenerative Medicine and Biomaterials
20. Sleep Science and Mental Health
21. Space Sciences and Technology
22. Traumatic Brain Injury
23. Trauma Research
24. Thermoregulation
25. Veteran and Military Health Innovations
26. Veteran and Military Mental Health Strategies
27. Wound Healing and Functional Restoration

Abstract Presentation Categories

There are two types of presentations for which we are soliciting abstracts:
      1) Podium
      2) Poster.

Please follow the instructions below to submit your abstract in response to your preferred presentation type.

Podium Presentations

An abstract for consideration of a podium presentation should share the results of a quantitative, qualitative, or other analytical methods study. These studies are based on original data collection or secondary data analysis. Research paper abstracts should be mature both conceptually and methodologically, ideally with some preliminary data analysis.

Poster Presentations

Poster presentations provide a forum for scholars to engage in active discussion with other event participants about a completed research project or about a project in developing stages. Poster presenters will have the opportunity to display their posters on large frames (provided) during a networking and poster session.

Abstract Preparation Instructions

All podium and poster abstracts must be submitted online via the [AIM 2026 Abstract Submission Website](#).

Abstract content:
1. Title (up to 225 characters).
2. Abstract (no more than 500 words) must contain the following sections: Background, Objective, Methods, Results, and Discussion/Conclusion.
3. Abstracts without results or case reports will not be accepted.
4. Do not include pictures or tables in the abstract.
5. All Air Force Investigators must submit a Form 3039 and a copy of their abstract to the Clinical Research Division (CRD) at usaf.jbsa.59-mdw.mbx.wing-crd-publications-and-presentations@mail.mil no later than 30 days before final clearance is required to present your materials. Form 3039 is located at: http://static.e-publishing.af.mil/production/1/59mdw/form/59mdw3039/59mdw3039.pdf.
6. Army and Navy investigators are similarly required to clear their presentation materials through their respective Public Affairs offices prior to presentation at SURF 2023.

Online Abstract Submission Instructions

All podium and poster abstracts must be submitted online via the [AIM 2026 Abstract Submission Website](#). On the submission page, you must provide:

- **Thematic Area of Abstract**
- **Author Information**: First and last name, email, organization (list department and institutional affiliations), and designate the corresponding author(s). Be certain to enter name, affiliations, and contact information (including email addresses) for all coauthors as well.
- **Title:** No more than 225 characters.
- **Abstract:** No more than 500 words. NOTE: Reviewers will not review abstracts greater than 500 words.
- **Keywords**: Include key phrases or key terms associated with your work.
- **Theme**: Designate the appropriate theme(s).
- **Submission Categories**: Indicate whether you are proposing a podium presentation only, poster presentation only, or poster presentation if not selected for podium presentation.
- **Upload File**: Upload a Word document using the required formatting instructions provided in the "Abstract Preparation Instructions" section above. Abstracts may be published in online or printed format. NOTE: Reviewers will not have access to this Word document file, only the abstract entered into the form.

When the online submission form is complete, press the "Submit" button. The corresponding author will receive a confirmation email from the proposal submission system.

Abstract Formatting Instructions (for Word Document Files)

The uploaded Word document file for paper (podium) and poster abstracts should be formatted as follows:
- **Title**: Arial font, 12-point, centered, and bold text.
- **Author(s)**: Use Arial font, 12-point, centered, and boldface. List the presenter's name first. For each author, include first and last name, credentials, department, college/school (if applicable), primary institutional affiliation, and email address (e.g., Jill Hernandez, PhD, Department of Biomedical Engineering, The University of Texas at San Antonio, jill.hernandez@utsa.edu).
- **Abstract Body**: Arial font, 12-point, use 1" page margins on all sides. Indent the first line of each paragraph by half an inch. Use both left and right justification. Superscripts and subscripts sized at 9-point.

- Please include acknowledgements and funding support. *NOTE: If this information limits the size of abstract body, please extend the text to an additional page.*

Abstract Submission Timeline

Tuesday, January 7, 2026	Abstract submission opens
Friday, February 20, 2026	Deadline to submit
Monday, March 9, 2026	Abstract review notification
Monday, April 20, 2026	Deadline to accept/decline
Tuesday, May 19, 2026	AIM-Health R&D Summit

Evaluation Criteria for Abstracts

Each podium and poster abstract will be evaluated based on the criteria below. Each criterion will be scored from 0-5, with 5 being excellent. Each abstract must demonstrate:

- **Originality:** How original is the concept presented in this abstract, or how novel is the approach to an existing problem?
- **Logic:** Are the ideas presented in this abstract logical, coherent, and well-reasoned?
- **Quality:** Does the abstract contain a clearly stated hypothesis or problem and include background, methods, results, and discussion/conclusions? Is it free of significant grammatical or typographical errors?
- **Significance:** What is the potential impact of this work on the field or on the understanding of the topic of study?
- **Validity:** How valid is the research design for the stated objectives, and how appropriate are the statistical techniques applied? For research abstracts, is sufficient information provided to understand the experimental design and analytical approach?
- **Synergy:** Is there potential for significant collaboration within or beyond the research project?

Additional Information

Website Links
- AIM 2026 Website: https://research.utsa.edu/surf/
- Abstract Submission Website: https://utsaresearch.infoready4.com/#freeformCompetitionDetail/2003650
- Registration: https://whova.com/portal/registration/D7sdZXdTCppF1KMzet5O/

Contact Information
Have questions? Please email surf@utsa.edu.

Accommodations Notice
The AIM Health R&D Summit team is committed to providing universal access to all of our events. Please contact the UTSA AIM Program Manager at surf@utsa.edu to request disability accommodations. Advance notice is necessary to arrange for some accessibility needs.