

Frontiers in Ocular Gene Therapy Research Conference: Call for session proposals

Nov. 13-14, 2024

Call for session proposals

Proposals are due no later than 11:59pm (Eastern Time) on Friday, June 28.

ARVO's Virtual Conferences bring together the global eye and vision community of scientists, clinicians, regulators, and industry partners to focus on the achievements, challenges, and future of specific research areas.

This Call for Session Proposals provides additional detail about the conference goals, key dates, proposal requirements and questions to consider when developing the session.

Conference goals

The Frontiers in Ocular Gene Therapy Research Conference will advance our understanding of gene therapy research for ocular diseases by providing foundational sessions that enable researchers to explore this evolving area of study, applied sessions that teach new research findings, techniques, and procedures, and strategic sessions that examine challenges and future possibilities.

After participating in the conference, attendees will be able to:

- Define gene therapy and related concepts
- Describe new gene-editing tools and techniques
- Identify potential new disease targets
- Examine various delivery systems (viral vectors, etc.)
- Discuss clinical trial successes and failures
- Share known pathways to the clinic

By submitting a session proposal, you are contributing to the growth of research in this area and enhancing its potential impact for clinical applications and new gene-editing technologies and delivery systems.

Key dates

- Call for proposals opens: May 20
- Call for proposals closes: June 28
- Proposal selection notification: August 2
- Conference dates: Nov. 13 -14

Eligibility to submit and registration requirement

ARVO welcomes proposals from both members and nonmembers. All session content must be relevant to our membership, align with the conference goals, and move us forward in our shared mission to enhance our understanding of the visual system and preventing, treating, and curing its disorders.

All session organizers, moderators, presenters, and panelists must register for the meeting and pay the associated registration fee. Organizers should notify their potential speakers and panelists of this requirement before including them in the proposal.

Registration fees

- Members-in-Training \$39
- Members \$89
- Nonmembers \$129

Integrity and independence

The content of each session must be independent, objective, scientifically rigorous, balanced, and free of bias. Promotion of any kind is prohibited.

Participation of owners and employees of [ineligible companies](#) is permitted as long as the session is not used as a vehicle to promote products and services.

Selection process

The Conference Planning Committee, in consultation with the Professional Development and Education (PDEC) committee, will review all proposals submitted. Before and after making final selections, staff may contact submitters to ask for clarification and/or offer feedback to session organizers.

Contact us

For assistance in refining topics or identifying other speakers to add to your session proposal, please contact ARVO at arvo@arvo.org.

Submission components

1. Format
2. Session title
3. Session description
4. Organizer qualifications and contact information (maximum of three per session)
5. Faculty qualifications and contact information (moderators, panelists, presenters)
6. Draft presentation titles and descriptions or panelist contribution descriptions
7. Diverse perspectives statement
8. Description of the educational need(s) for the session
9. Description of the target audience
10. Category
11. Tag(s)

Session formats

Select the format best suited to meet the session's goals. Consider the diverse options for content presentation, audience interaction and discussion. Staff are available to help integrate Zoom's engagements features such as in-session polling, whiteboards, and quizzing.

Panel

Choose this format to lead a conversation with recognized experts in the field.

These sessions offer a moderated discussion between three to four panelists, typically followed by 15–20 minutes of questions and answers with the audience. Panels are opportunities for thought-provoking discussions among experts with different perspectives on the session theme or topic. Session hosts pre-plan the discussion themes and questions. Panelists should represent multiple institutions and research settings. (Total duration: 60 minutes)

Symposium

Choose this format to share content in a structured format.

These sessions open with presentations of approximately ten minutes per presenter (maximum of five presenters), followed by open discussions that allow the audience and presenters to interact. Session moderators introduce the presenters and facilitate both the discussion and wrap-up. (Total duration: 75 minutes)

Debate

Choose this format to examine a topic, issue, or theme where there are competing ideas, each with its own merits and shortcomings.

This format takes a central theme or question and has two speakers debate for and against it. At the start, the moderator will poll the participants to measure their opinion on the topic. Following the debate, the moderator will poll the participants again to see if there are any changes in opinion. The “winner” of the debate is the speaker who convinced the most audience members to change their votes. A maximum of three themes or questions can be debated in each session. Session moderators manage the debate and audience polling. (Total duration: 75 minutes)

Breakout

Choose this format if you want to lead an open discussion with the audience, create an opportunity to network with your colleagues, and share ideas for applying the content to individual research projects or other similar informal conversations.

These sessions involve active participation from the audience in an unstructured manner. Topics and themes can be as diverse as brainstorming about a specific challenge in the field, setting personal goals, and speed networking. Session facilitator(s) describe the session goals, encourage participation, and summarize the discussion. (Total duration: 60 minutes)

Workshop

Choose this format if you want to teach a skill or facilitate the application of complex ideas and concepts.

The workshop format has participants working together in an interactive session designed to be hands-on and collaborative. While there may be lessons conveyed by the session leader(s), the emphasis is on facilitated peer discussion, hands-on activities, and real-world problem-solving. (Total duration: 75 minutes)

Other (new format)

Be creative and propose a new or different approach. Include specific details for how the session will be designed, set up, and facilitated/moderated. (Total duration: 60 minutes) – Contact education@arvo.org for guidance regarding the proposal form.

Session title and description

You will need to provide a title and describe your session in 250 words or less. When crafting a title for your session, think of something succinct and descriptive that will quickly convey to both reviewers and conference participants what the session is about.

The most valuable information to convey in the description is the knowledge that will be shared and the takeaways that participants will gain from your session. The session description should also be used to describe how you plan to run the session, giving the reviewer a chance to understand how the session will be organized and what participants can expect.

If your session is accepted, you will be asked to provide a brief, 50-word description that will go into the conference program and can be further refined to focus on the core elements of your session.

Diverse perspectives

You will be asked for a short statement on how your session represents diverse perspectives, as appropriate and applicable to your topic and format.

Science is at its best when scientists work collaboratively without restrictions or limitations. ARVO advocates for open and honest exchange among scientists regardless of race, color, religion, gender, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, national origin, genetics, disability, or age and free from national or international constraints.

As an international organization, ARVO believes that for society to derive the maximum benefits from science, it is essential that all scientists freely engage with the global scientific community. We support our members in this by creating opportunities for researchers to come together to discuss topics of mutual interest and by building networks by which they can communicate. It is incumbent upon ARVO to play a proactive role in ensuring that diverse voices and perspectives have a place in all forms of scientific exchange. Promoting global interactions between scientists, and the diversity that is gained therein, is critical to achieving our mission of advancing the understanding of the visual system and preventing, treating, and curing its disorders.

Audience knowledge level

These audience knowledge levels describe who the content of the session is best designed for and will help attendees know what sessions are most relevant for them. Select one audience level for your session.

Foundational (researchers new to the topic)

The audience has little to no prior knowledge of the topic.

Applied (experienced researchers)

The audience wants to build on existing skills and learn the latest ideas, techniques etc., that can be immediately applied to their work.

Strategic (advanced-career professionals)

This audience includes experienced researchers and professionals, who are in positions responsible for setting directions for their organizations or are influencers in the field. Sessions for this audience address topics relevant to high-level strategic work that is establishing new procedures, processes, guidelines or otherwise advancing the field.

Universal (all audiences)

Suitable for all attendees, at all levels of familiarity, experience, and expertise with the topic.

Educational needs

The following questions are intended to spark your thinking to develop a session proposal that aligns with the conference goals. Consider multiple questions when planning the session.

- What is the current state of gene therapy and gene therapy research for ophthalmic clinical care?
- What has been inherent in past efforts? Have these qualities led to successes or failures?
- What controversies or challenges have stalled progress?
- What are the unmet needs and how can we start to meet them?
- What collaborations and partnerships are needed to realize this vision?

Professional practice gaps

You will be asked to describe the professional practice gaps of your learners, the reasons for the gaps and how the session will meet those needs.

"Professional practice" is not limited to clinical practice; it includes each of the domains of your learner's professional lives—teaching, conducting research, being a leader or member of a team." - Steve Singer, PhD, ACCME Vice President for Education & Outreach

Example for an introductory session on diabetic retinopathy

- Professional gap: Researchers new to studying diabetic retinopathy struggle to design research projects that will add to our understanding of the prevention, diagnosis, progression, and treatment of the disease.
- Reason for the gap: New researchers often lack knowledge of existing research findings and new areas for research inquiry and lack the ability to integrate this information into their research aims.
- Addressing the gap: This session will include presentations about the current state of research in diabetic retinopathy, discussions of new areas for research inquiry and examples demonstrating how to incorporate this information in new research aims.

Category

Select the one category that best fits your session.

- Introduction to gene therapy
- Case studies in success/failure
- Clinical applications (current and potential)
- Clinical trials

- Delivery systems (viral vectors, etc.)
- Endpoints
- Ethical considerations
- Gene-editing tools
- Patient perspectives
- Regulatory
- Translation to clinic

Tag

Select the tag(s) that match the eye diseases you will discuss during the session. Select “Not applicable” if the session is not disease specific.

- Age-related macular degeneration
- Cataract
- Corneal dystrophies
- Diabetic retinopathy
- Dry eye diseases
- Glaucoma
- Immunologic disorders
- Inherited retinal diseases
- Inflammation
- Neoplastic disease
- Neuro-ophthalmology
- Not applicable
- Other