

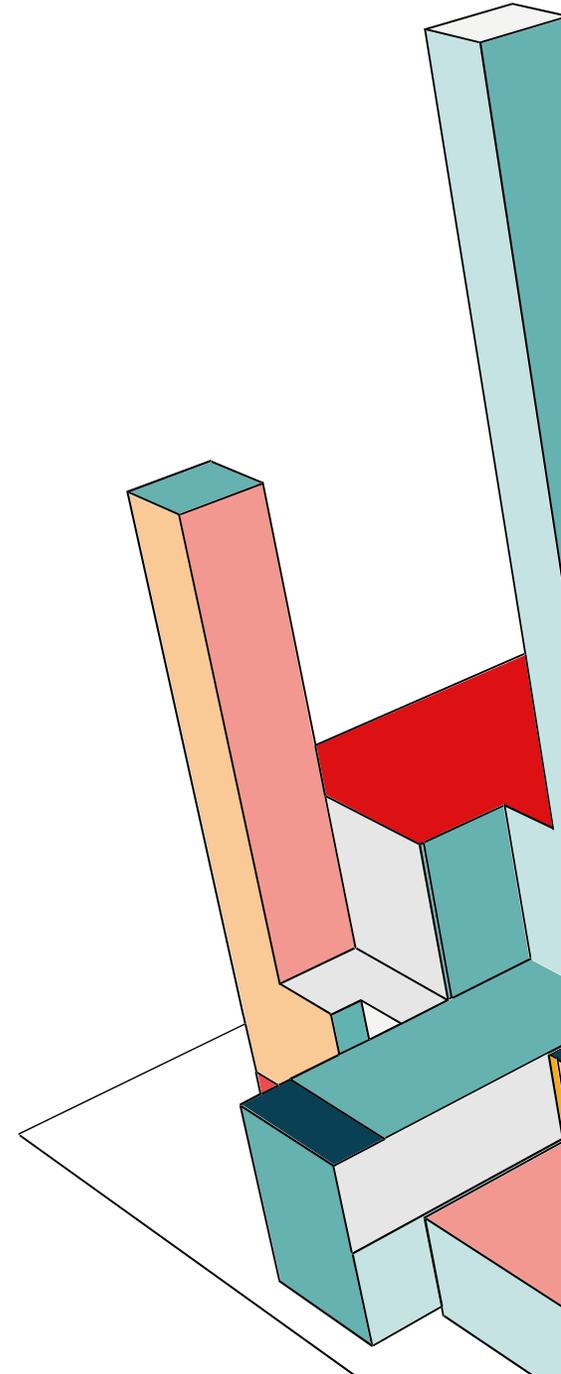
AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR
BIOETHICS + HUMANITIES

NAVIGATING A PROPOSAL

February 11, 2026 | 11 AM CT

AGENDA

- Introduction
- Selecting a Session Format
- Selecting a Category
- Writing Your Abstract: Best Practices
- FAQs
- Questions from the Audience





BRIEF INTRODUCTIONS

2026 Program Committee:

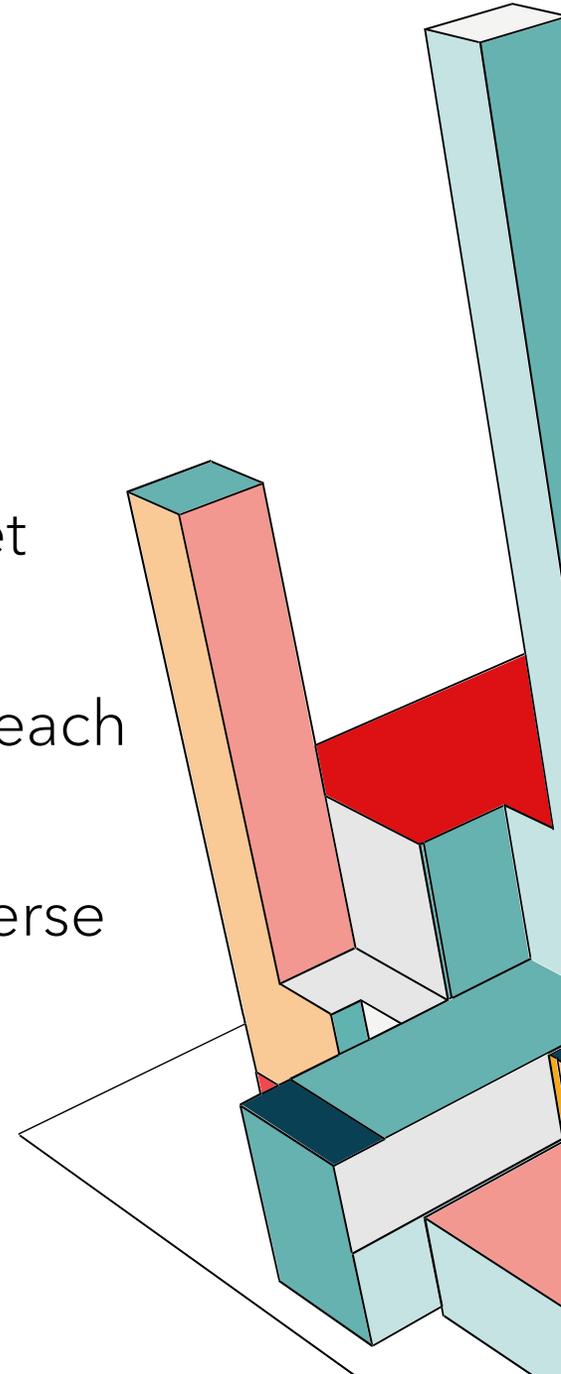
- Lori Bruce, DBe MA MBe HEC-C, *Chair*
- Bethany Bruno, MD MA ACOG
- Lisa Campo-Engelstein, PhD
- Elizabeth Lanphier, PhD MS HEC-C
- Bryan Pilkington, PhD
- Valerie Satkoske, PhD MSW HEC-C
- Elise Smith, PhD
- Patrick Smith, PhD

SELECTING A SESSION FORMAT & CATEGORY



SELECTING A SESSION FORMAT

- How much depth does your topic require? How long do you need to present?
- Is this a work in progress or a research project that has not yet been carried out?
- Is this presentation designed to share a new perspective or teach a new skill?
- Is this topic best presented by a team of presenters from diverse backgrounds? Do they agree?
- How can I best engage the audience with this presentation?



SESSION TYPES

Session Type	Brief Description	Presenter No.	Total Time
Debate	Presenters with differing views	2-4	1 hr
Enrichment Hub	Experiential or collaborative projects, workshops, or asynchronous activities	Up to 4	You tell us!
Flash Presentation	Works in progress or developing projects	1	5 min
Panel Presentation	Multiple presenters on a specific topic	2-4	1 hr
Paper Presentation	Standard presentation of a paper	1	20 min
Performance/Exhibition	Artistic work to be staged, performed, read, etc.	Up to 4	1 hr
Preconference Workshop	In-depth skill building workshop	Up to 4	You tell us!
Workshop	Skill-building session with an emphasis on instruction and interaction	Up to 4	1 hr

ENRICHMENT HUBS (EXAMPLES)



Learn more about these hubs on the ASBH website!



SELECTING A CATEGORY

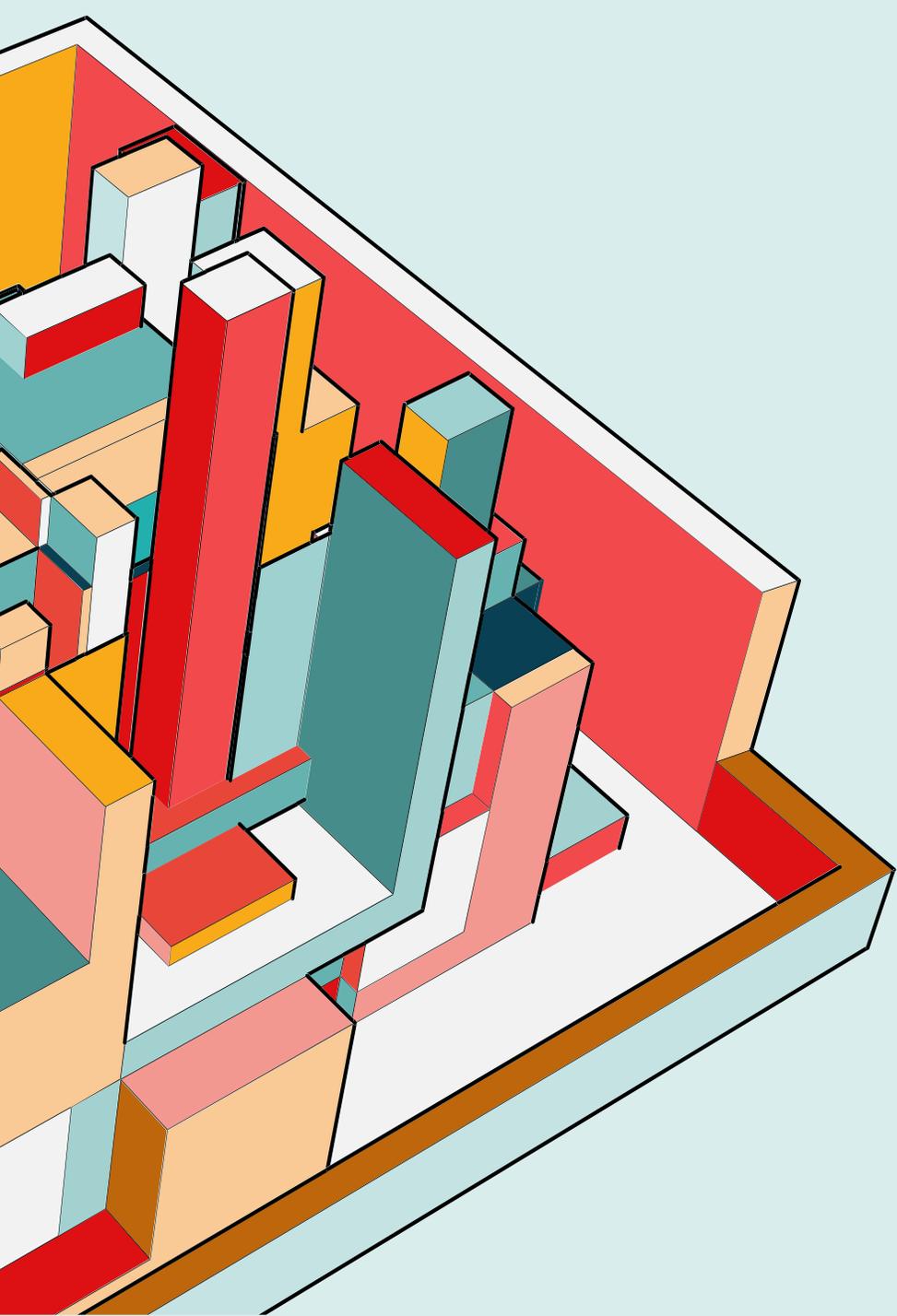
What if your proposal applies to more than one category?

Who is the ideal reviewer for my proposal? What is their background?

What category have other proposals on this topic been categorized in?

What if I submit my proposal in the wrong category?

- Clinical Ethics
- Diversity, Disparity, and Inclusion
- Education/Interprofessionalism
- Health Humanities
- Law, Public Health Policy, and Organizational Ethics
- Philosophy
- Religion
- Research Ethics and Social Sciences



WRITING YOUR ABSTRACT

Best Practices

BEST PRACTICES

- Get to the point.
 - Include some context for your argument, but make sure you don't waste your word count focusing on others' work
- Demonstrate why your work matters.
 - Show that this presentation can be of use to others outside of your institution or that your research is generalizable. Why do we care?
- Talk about your approach.
 - Be sure to be clear about your perspective.
 - If it is an empirical proposal, discuss your methodology.
 - If you're using a group of panelists, discuss their backgrounds without using any identifying information.



BEST PRACTICES (PAPER)

LEGEND	Context
Why It Matters	Approach/Perspective

2025 Abstract: "The Bioethics of Mandatory Observation Periods after Overdose," Bryan Pilkington

The opioid crisis is continually challenging for those who suffer from opioid-use disorder and those who care for them. 60,000,000 people across the globe experience opioid addiction, with over 100,000 overdose deaths yearly. Mandatory holds of persons who have suffered an overdose and received naloxone have come under bioethical scrutiny because of questions about their ability to make autonomous decisions. Given variations in the amount of medication lingering in a person's system post-naloxone resuscitation, capacity for decision making is unclear. Even if a person appears to have the capacity to consent, motivational differences relative to their real self or the ability to weigh risks differently than they would otherwise, might be compromised according to some ethicists. Thus, mandatory observation periods may lead to the violation of patient's autonomy. To the contrary, it is argued that mandatory holds are ethical and are not a violation of autonomy. Though such holds may appear paternalistic (and careful analysis may support claims of capacity in a subset of patients in the aforementioned state), the bioethical issues ought not be framed along the autonomy-paternalism spectrum or even as a conflict between the principles of autonomy and beneficence, but rather as an issue of implied consent. After arguing in favor of this framing over the other options, it is argued that mandatory holds need not be paternalistic, fit emergency medical practices, and are both ethically and epistemically sound. The presentation concludes by recommending mandatory hold policies be adopted by healthcare institutions and supported by clinical ethicists.

BEST PRACTICES (FLASH)

LEGEND	Context
Why It Matters	Approach/Perspective

2023 Abstract: "Transfusion Refusals in Pediatrics: From Shared Decision Making to Court Orders,"
Liza-Marie Johnson

In pediatrics, parents (legal guardians) are the primary medical decision-makers for their minor children: they know their children well and are most inclined to act in their best interest. As autonomous adults, parents have wide latitude to refuse recommended medical treatment for themselves, however this same broad autonomy does not extend to their children. Pediatric providers have a fiduciary responsibility to a child's health and well-being, intervening when parental decision-making places a child at risk of serious harm. When parental decision-making conflicts with provider recommendations, there is often a role for open, honest discussion with families in hopes of identifying mutually acceptable solutions. This session will examine parental refusals when transfusion of a blood product is medically indicated or reasonably anticipated, an event which is more common among families whose religious affiliation is as a Jehovah's Witness (JW). We will review the ethical principles commonly applied to evaluations of parental decision-making and briefly present original data from a retrospective review of JW data from over 50 years. We will present a shared decision-making approach for working with JW families which we believe fosters communication and creates inclusive spaces for dialogue with families. Real-world pediatric cases, including some involving adolescents as additional decision-makers, will demonstrate the range of possible solutions for managing conflicts around transfusion refusals in pediatrics, including circumstances when court orders may be recommended. Although we focus on transfusion refusals, participants can apply the material presented in this session to navigating other refusals of recommended therapy in pediatrics.

BEST PRACTICES (PANEL)

LEGEND	Context
Why It Matters	Approach/Perspective

2024 Abstract: "How Psychedelics Challenge Core Assumptions about Medicine, Ethics, and Humanity," Lori Bruce

The FDA is expected to make a decision about approval of the first psychedelic medicine in the US by August 2024. Psychedelics are a subclass of hallucinogenic drugs whose primary effect is to trigger non-ordinary states of consciousness. As such, they have the potential to disrupt long-held notions of what it means to be human and challenge us to think critically about transformation, the nature of healing, and mental healthcare. This panel brings together diverse perspectives from philosophy, sociology, bioethics, and law. The first panelist will discuss the current state of psychedelic use (both regulated and unregulated) in the US, examine the appropriate role of healthcare gatekeeping, and explore implications for core ethical concepts like respect for persons. The second panelist will explore the principle of agency and its importance to psychedelic facilitated self-change through interviews with psychedelic retreat-goers and will argue that ethically administering psychedelics requires a commitment to maximizing participants' capacities to enact transformative agency. The third panelist will describe how the transdiagnostic effects of psychedelics may challenge our current system of psychiatric nosology—pushing us to reconsider alternatives to the current categorical framework of the DSM. Such a shift would have downstream effects on diagnosis, access, personal identity, and stigma related to psychiatric illness. The fourth panelist will examine understated concerns about psychedelics, argue that funders have a responsibility to care for those who suffer substantial harms, and discuss mechanisms for addressing harm, including the benefits and drawbacks of an injury compensation program.

BEST PRACTICES (ENRICHMENT HUB)

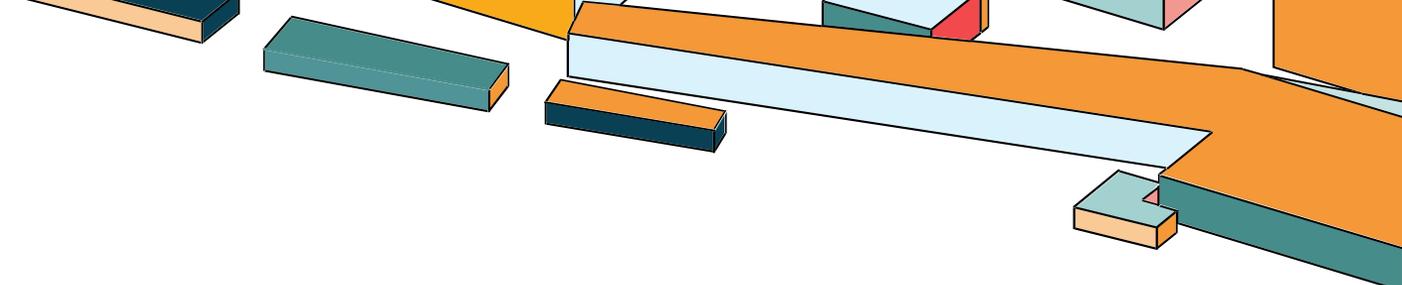
LEGEND	Context
Why It Matters	Approach/Perspective

2025 Abstract: "Legacy: A Durational Performance of Medical/Health Professional Education,"
Gretchen Case

From 2010 to 2024, I taught ethics, arts, and humanities to medical students as part of their required curriculum. A re-envisioning of the curriculum and a new name for the medical school led to significant changes, including reducing health humanities content. Last spring, tangible evidence of this transformation came when I rescued dozens of white coats from destruction because they carried the name of the old, or "legacy," curriculum. I worked with a few graduating students to turn these coats into artworks representing their medical education. Reflecting on the effects that medical school and medical students have had on me as a faculty member, even as a non-clinician, I began to imagine a transformed white coat of my own. I propose a durational performance that will last one entire conference day. I will be seated in a high-traffic area surrounded by about 60 white coats: a few completed by my students, but most ready for artistic intervention. I will embroider my white coat with initials representing each of the 1600 students I taught over fourteen years. In the tradition of endurance art, which calls for perseverance through discomfort over time, I will sew for the entire day without stopping, except for necessary bio-breaks. As I work, I will talk with audience members about their experiences as faculty and/or students, offering them art supplies to use on the white coats. Together, we will create a visible legacy of our work as educators and learners who persevere and transform each other.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



FAQS

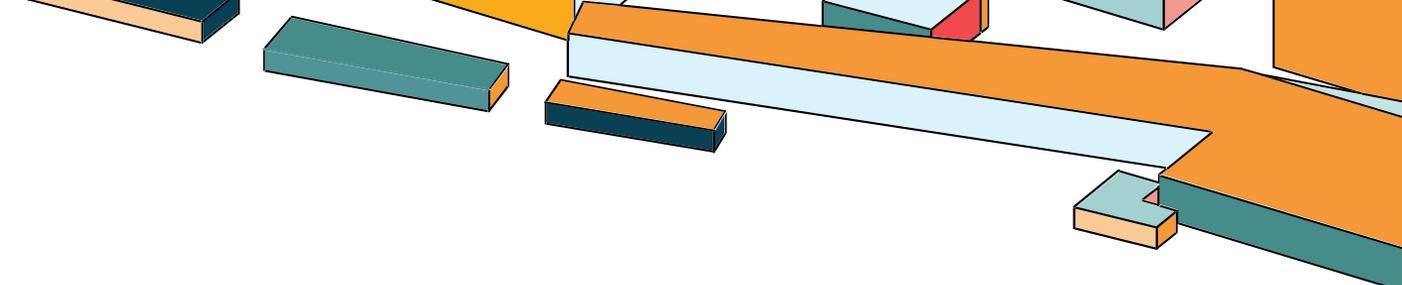
Can I have more than 1 presenter for my paper? No, paper and flash presentations are limited to one formally-designated presenter, although a co-author may jump in to help present on the day, if the proposal is accepted.

Do all presenters listed need to register? All presenters affiliated with a proposal (except for non-presenting co-authors of paper or flash sessions) will be expected to register and attend the conference in person if accepted. If you are interested in including someone that wouldn't traditionally attend the conference or take part in the ASBH community, such as a patient, community organizer, or another relevant stakeholder, you may request a Guest Speaker Designation for them, which would allow the presenter complimentary access to attend their session.

Is there a list of required information to submit? Yes, there is a list of every requirement for each session type listed on the Proposals page of the ASBH website.

Can an affinity group submit a proposal together? Yes, affinity groups can work together to submit a proposal on behalf of the group for an additional concurrent session meeting at the conference.

What happens to my proposal if I include identifying information? If you include any identifying information in your abstract (such as names or institutions), your proposal will be automatically rejected and will not be reviewed.



FAQS

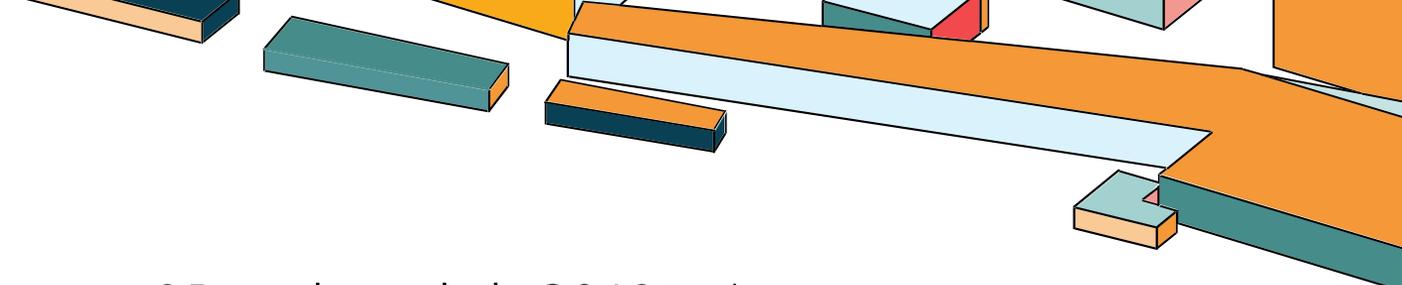
How do I know that I've submitted everything? If you have completed all the required tasks in the proposal submission portal, you will need to click the blue "Submit" button at the top of the page to officially submit your presentation. You will only receive a confirmation email once you press submit.

What happens to my proposal after I submit it? After you submit your proposal, ASBH staff will check to ensure proposals comply with the two-submission rule and are properly anonymized. After that, proposals will be randomly assigned to 3 qualified peer reviewers per submission. Category leaders will review the proposals after the peer reviewers, and the Program Committee will perform a final review and ultimately decide whether to include a given proposal in the conference schedule.

What if I need to change my proposal's designated presenter(s) after I submit? If the proposal is accepted and you need to adjust your presentation roster, you may email ASBH staff to update your presentation accordingly. Please note that the decision notification will be sent out to the address affiliated with the proposal *at the time of submission*, so if you believe your affiliation may change this spring or early summer, be sure to list a personal address as the contact.

Is there a disadvantage if we discuss state-specific statutes? No, we certainly encourage the inclusion of state-level statutes.

Can I edit my proposal title as I work through the application? Yes, all submission tasks are editable until you submit the final proposal.



FAQS

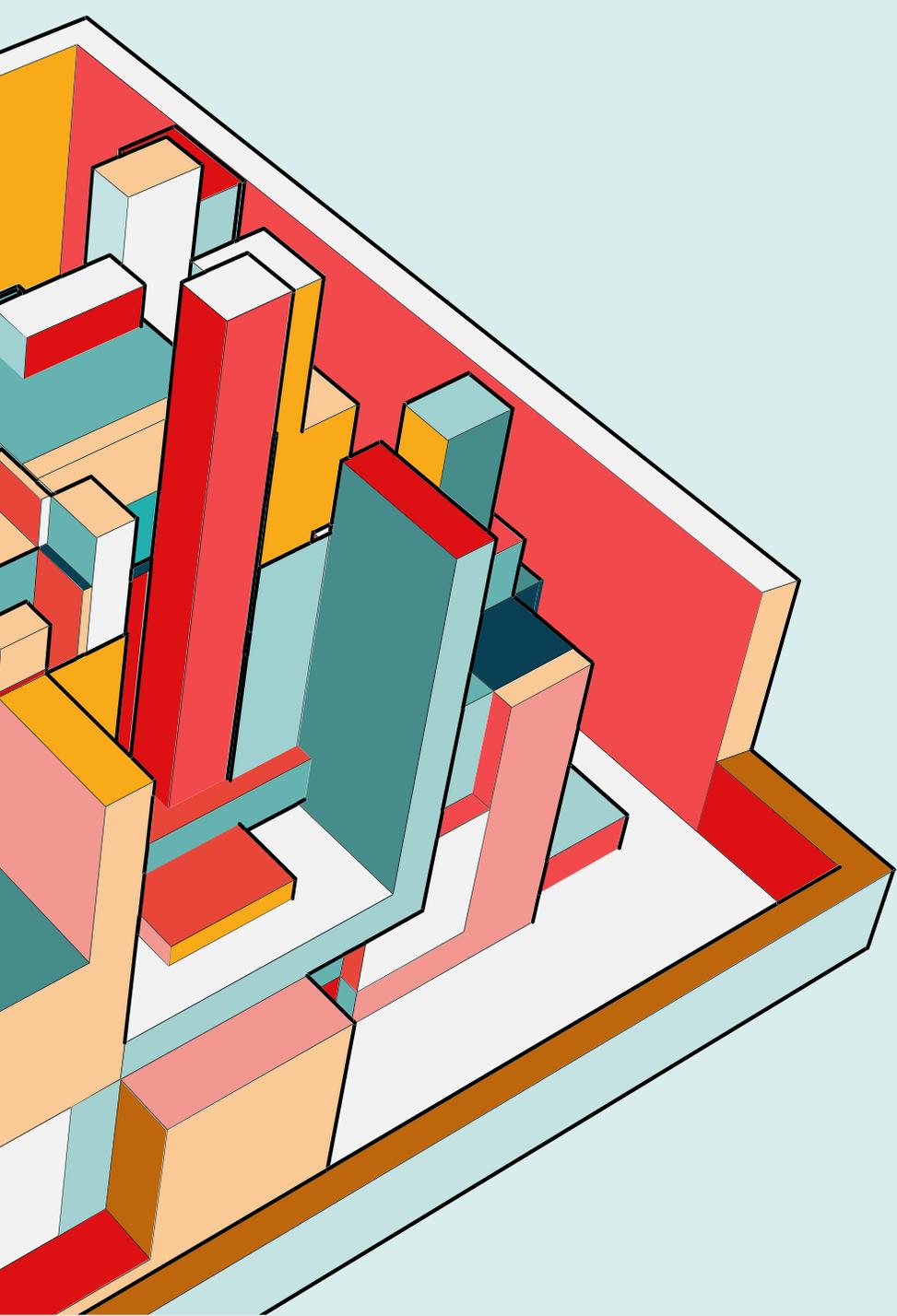
How much time does each paper and flash speaker receive? Does that include Q&A? Each paper presenter has 20 minutes total (around 15 minutes to present and 5 minutes of Q&A). Each flash presenter has 5 minutes to present, and after all 8 speakers assigned to the session present, there will be a collective Q&A for the remainder of the session time.

Do you ever guide people away from a paper session to a flash, or vice versa? Yes, the Program Committee will consider whether the submitted session type is the best fit for the content presented. In some cases, the Program Committee may accept a proposal as another format, such as a paper proposal being accepted as a flash session.

If I submit two abstracts, will I only be accepted for one? ASBH may accept both proposals submitted by the same person. However, ASBH limits presenters to two concurrent talks, either of your own submission or as a co-presenter on another's submission. If you are accepted for more than two concurrent sessions, you will be asked to choose the two on which you would like to remain.

Can the proposal be an idea that's already published or forthcoming? If it has been already published, then it may already be familiar to reviewers. Consider what the unique contribution of your work is and how it applies to this specific audience at this time. If you do submit something for another conference or publication that is published between the time of submission and the conference, you will not be asked to withdraw from ASBH.

Is there a later deadline for affinity group presentations? Some affinity groups choose to offer their own Call for Proposals for their group's meeting at the Annual Conference. These calls are independent from the Program Committee and are organized by the group's leader(s). While each group may have their own style, deadlines, and specifications, many of these groups accept submissions over the summer so that they may include submitters who were not initially accepted into the conference schedule.



QUESTIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE

To ask a question, drop it in the chat, use the “Raise Hand” tool, or send the message to Lori Bruce directly. The Q&A segment will not be included in the posted recording.

THANK YOU!

Please reach out to ASBH Member Services at 847.375.4745 or info@asbh.org with any further questions.

