2027 Call for Posters

66th Annual Heart of America Eye Care Congress
February 19–21, 2027
Sheraton Hotel at Crown Center, Kansas City, MO 64108

Introduction

The Heart of America Eye Care Congress (HOAECC) invites submissions for the **Clinical and Scientific Poster Session** at the 2027 meeting. The poster session will be an interactive event held on **Friday, February 19, 2027, from 5:45 PM to 7:00 PM**.

Call for Posters

We are pleased to invite submissions of abstracts based on unique clinical cases and original optometric research. All case reports and research projects must be complete at the time of submission. Abstracts may be submitted online beginning **October 1, 2026**, and must be received by **November 15, 2026, at 11:59 PM CT**.

Submission Requirements

All abstracts must meet the following requirements:

1. The abstract must be submitted online by **November 15, 2026**.
2. A primary author may submit more than one abstract but only one poster will be accepted.
3. The online abstract submission form must be completed in full. Incomplete submissions will not be accepted.
4. Abstracts must not exceed **300 words**, excluding the title, authors, and keywords.
5. The topic must be of sufficient general interest to the optometric community.
6. The abstract must be clear, concise, and well written in anticipation of publication.
7. The abstract must contain sufficient detail for review and evaluation.

Acceptable Abstract Formats

Clinical Case Posters

Clinical case poster abstracts should include the following sections:

- Case History
- Pertinent Findings
- Differential Diagnosis
- Diagnosis and Discussion
- Treatment and Management
- Conclusions

Scientific Research Posters

Scientific research poster abstracts should include the following sections:

- Purpose
- Methods
- Results
- Conclusions

Additional Requirements

Scientific Abstracts

Scientific abstracts must meet the following criteria:

- The abstract must be based on original research.
- The abstract must describe a scientific investigation of the idea or product being studied.
- The abstract must demonstrate a clear and soundly tested hypothesis.
- The conclusions must be supported by the results presented.
- The abstract must include evidence of a significant new result, and the significance must be clear from the abstract.
- Preliminary results are acceptable.

Clinical Case Report Abstracts

Clinical case report abstracts must meet the following criteria:

- The case report must highlight timely or essential information, not simply repeat information already available in the literature.
- The case report must be unique.
- The case report must demonstrate complete follow-through of patient care.
- The clinical significance of the case report must be clear from the abstract.

Poster Selection Criteria and Notification

Authors will be notified by email regarding acceptance of their poster by **December 15, 2026**. Only accepted posters will be displayed. Late submissions and walk-in posters will not be accepted.

Abstracts will be peer reviewed, and only those that meet the acceptance criteria will be selected for presentation.

Selected Posters

Students and Residents

Optometric residents who are primary authors of accepted posters are eligible for the following benefits:

1. Eligibility for one of five **$2,000 grand prize awards** for outstanding student and resident submissions, as selected by the HOAECC Board of Directors. The five winners will receive free transportation and lodging for the 2027 Congress.
2. Publication of the poster on the HOAECC website.

3. **Free registration** for students and residents with accepted posters, provided registration is completed by **December 31, 2026**. Travel and lodging are not included.

Important: Do not register for the meeting before your abstract has been accepted. Registration instructions and the free registration code will be provided after acceptance. No refunds will be issued for registration completed before acceptance.

Educators

Faculty members in academic settings who have accepted posters will receive **$100 off the standard practitioner registration fee**. Registration must be completed by **December 31, 2026,** to receive the discount. The discount applies only to the **primary author**.

Other Practitioners

Scientists and doctors with accepted posters who are not educators will pay the standard registration fee. You must register for the meeting to present a poster at the poster session. Please note that authors of selected posters, other than the five grand prize winners, are responsible for hotel accommodations, transportation, and all other expenses associated with attendance at the HOAECC meeting.

Attending the Poster Session

Upon acceptance, registration information for the 2027 HOAECC meeting will be sent to the primary author's email address. A registration code for free or discounted registration will be provided at that time.

Presenting authors must register for the meeting by **December 31, 2026**. Students and residents must use their registration code by that date to receive free registration. If registration is completed before notification of acceptance, no refund will be issued. You must be registered for the meeting to participate in the poster session.

Meeting and hotel reservation information is available on the HOAECC website: https://www.hoaecc.org/

Presenting authors must arrive in time to set up their posters on **Friday, February 19, 2027, between 3:00 PM and 5:00 PM**, and must remain with their posters during the interactive session from **5:45 PM to 7:00 PM**.

Beginning **January 1, 2027**, residents will pay a **$125 late registration fee** or a **$155 on-site fee**. Practitioners in academia who present an accepted poster will receive the $100 discount only if registration is completed by **December 31, 2026**. After that date, standard registration fees apply. Only the primary author is eligible for the discount.

Poster Specifications

The HOAECC will provide a **48-inch vertical by 96-inch horizontal tackboard** for each poster. All text should be at least **18-point font**. Each illustration should include a caption.

Authors are responsible for printing and bringing their own posters. **No digital poster display will be provided.** Push pins will be supplied for poster installation.

Digital Poster Submission

Digital posters must be in JPG or PNG format only.
Digital poster submission is due **February 1, 2027**.
After a poster has been accepted, a link for online submission will be emailed to each primary author. Digital images are required for HOAECC archival purposes only and will **not** be displayed digitally at the meeting. Authors must still bring a printed poster to the Congress.

American Academy of Optometry Fellowship Points

All graduates of schools or colleges of optometry who present an original poster during the 2027 Poster Session will be eligible for points toward American Academy of Optometry fellowship. The poster must present original content and must not have been presented at another major meeting. The primary author must be present for the entire poster session from **5:45 PM to 7:00 PM**. The American Academy of Optometry will determine which posters meet the criteria for fellowship points.

Important Dates

Date	Event
October 1, 2026	Abstract submission opens
November 15, 2026	Abstract submission closes
Mid-December 2026	Acceptance notifications sent by email
December 31, 2026	Deadline for presenter registration to receive discounted or free registration
January 15, 2027	Digital poster submission due
February 19, 2027	HOAECC meeting
February 19, 2027, 3:00 PM–5:00 PM	Poster setup
February 19, 2027, 5:45 PM–7:00 PM	Interactive poster session

Contact Information
Poster questions should be directed to
Eric E. Polk, OD, FAAO
Email: Education1@hoaecc.org

Registration questions may be sent to:
Jeremy Fast, OD

Registration@hoaecc.org