

American Heart Association Scientific Sessions 2026

Submission Guidelines: #ScientificSessions26 Clinical Case

Submission Period: April 8-June 4, 2026, 6:00 PM CT (UTC-5)

Clinical cases in cardiovascular medicine provide a mechanism to promote experiential learning about rare conditions, unusual presentations, or novel treatment responses. They also serve as important tools in advancing clinical practice. Clinical case submissions should aim to advance knowledge, improve care, and humanize clinical practice.

Clinical cases should follow (as appropriate) the checklist as outlined in the 2013 Case Report guidelines [CARE Checklist — CARE Case Report Guidelines](#). Proprietary information must not be included.

[CARE-writer](#) is an online application that may be helpful in case study preparation, which follows the CARE guidelines for organizing, formatting, and writing systematic and case reports.

Overall Clinical Case Submission Requirements

- Must be submitted (and if accepted, will be presented) in English with accurate grammar and spelling suitable for publication.
- Author must affirm that the work submitted is original and the content is based on thorough examination and investigation for accuracy.
- Proofread carefully to avoid errors before the submission deadline. The case report will be published exactly as it has been submitted.
- Submission of a case report constitutes a commitment by the author(s) to present if accepted. Failure to present, if not justified, will jeopardize future acceptance of submissions for American Heart Association meetings/conferences.
- There is no limit to the number of case reports an investigator may submit. If selected, the presenter must be one of the co-authors listed. If multiple submissions are accepted, the presenting author must resolve schedule conflicts by arranging for a co-author to present.
- The American Heart Association is committed to upholding the highest standards of scientific integrity in all abstracts submitted to its scientific meetings. By submitting an abstract, authors confirm that the work is original, accurately presented, and consistent with the American Heart Association's standards for ethical and responsible scientific communication. All abstracts submitted to AHA scientific meetings are subject to peer review and may undergo additional scientific integrity assessments, which may include expert evaluation and analytical tools to identify concerns related to originality, authorship, ethical conduct, or appropriate use of emerging technologies. Abstracts that do not meet AHA's scientific or ethical standards may be subject to further review or disqualification.

American Heart Association Scientific Sessions 2026

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Clinical Case Character Guidelines

- Abstracts are limited to 2,500 characters (about 360-630 words).
- Counts towards character limit:
 - Text in the abstract body
 - Punctuation in the abstract body
- Does not count towards character limit:
 - Title of abstract
 - Names of authors
 - Caption of graphics
 - Graphics, Images, figures, or tables
 - Spaces in the abstract body

Clinical Case Body Content

- We recommend that abstracts have the following identifiable sections:
 - Title, Abstract & Keywords
 - Introduction (Context & Rationale)
 - Patient Information (De-identified)
 - Clinical Findings & Timeline
 - Diagnostic Assessment & Reasoning
 - Therapeutic Intervention(s)
 - Follow-up, Outcomes & Adverse Events
 - Discussion & Synthesis
 - Patient Perspective (when appropriate)
 - Writing Quality & Organization
- Use generic drug names.
- Avoid beginning sentences with numbers.
- Standard abbreviations may be used without definition. Nonstandard abbreviations (kept to a minimum) must be placed in parentheses after the first use of the word or phrase abbreviated.
- Do not include references, credits or grant support.
- Do not include the names or personal information of the patient.

Graphics Guidelines (Figures and Tables)

- All graphics (figures) and text-based graphics (tables) should be provided as 72-300 dpi, pre-sized .BMP, .GIF, .JPG or .PNG images only, with a maximum width of 440 pixels (no limit on length). Black-and-white digital images should be in grayscale mode. Color images should be saved in RGB color mode.
- All graphics will require a brief description of the image.
- Please Note: If a case report is accepted for publication, any images submitted are placed after the report that will appear in the online-only supplement to *Circulation*, an American Heart Association journal.

American Heart Association Scientific Sessions 2026

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Clinical Case Authors

- The submitting author will be designated as the primary and presenting author unless otherwise specified. The presenting author must be listed on the case report and can be listed anywhere in the author block.
- Contribution Criteria for Author Inclusion
When prioritizing authors, consider the following:
 - Substantial Intellectual Contribution
 - Approval and Accountability
 - Final approval of the version submitted
 - Agreement to be accountable for all aspects of the work
- All authors listed on the case report must have actively participated in the development of the case report. The AHA reserves the right to remove a report from the program if it is determined that any listed author did not contribute to the work presented.
- Please review the author block carefully. Edits cannot be made after the June 4, 2026, 6:00 PM CT (UTC-5) deadline. Once the submission is complete, the author block will be published as submitted. **Additions or deletions of author names are not permitted after the submission deadline.**

Clinical Case Revisions

- After the June 4, 2026, 6:00 PM CT (UTC-5) deadline, your submission is considered final and cannot be edited.
 - Submissions may not be revised in any way or resubmitted.
 - Additions or deletions of author names will not be permitted.
- Proofread carefully to avoid errors before submission.

Clinical Case Copyright Transfer Agreement

- Abstract Copyright Transfer Agreement will be electronically signed during submission.
 - Your selection of "Yes" will grant permission to publish.
 - Your selection of "No" will prohibit publication of the abstract in all formats, including the *Circulation* supplement, ePoster site, the mobile meeting guide app, abstracts on USB/download and the online program planner.

American Heart Association Scientific Sessions 2026

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Clinical Case Review

- Clinical case abstracts successfully submitted by the June 4, 2026, 6:00 PM CT (UTC-5) deadline are posted to a secure website for blind review. Our intent is to be inclusive of quality science received without compromising scientific integrity. As such, a team of experts, guided by the Committee for Scientific Sessions Program, independently reviews submissions in the category that best fits their expertise.
- Clinical cases will be evaluated based on the presence and quality of identified elements in the 2013 CARE guidelines <https://www.care-statement.org/checklist>

Clinical Case Acceptance

- Acceptance/non-acceptance status will be available by mid-August. Please ensure the email provided for the presenting author is accurate, as all correspondence will be sent via email to the presenting author only.
- **All communications will be sent from AHAScientificAbstracts@heart.org. Please make sure to add this email address to your email contacts to ensure important program participant-related information gets through your spam filters, etc.**
- All accepted submissions will be scheduled in oral or poster presentation formats. All presentations, including question-and-answer will be conducted in English. Presenters may request assistance from the moderator who will repeat or rephrase questions from the audience or may ask a colleague in the audience to assist with translation.
- Guidelines for the presentation will be included in the acceptance communication.

Journal Publication

- Accepted submissions having selected “Yes” to the Abstract Copyright Transfer Agreement will be published online in the *Circulation* journal supplement.

Embargo Policy

- General presentations are embargoed for release at 5 AM EST Monday, November 2, 2026, and are therefore prohibited from release until date and time of AHA designated release time. You will be contacted by AHA communications if you are selected to participate in an AHA news event.
- Written embargoed information cannot be shared with anyone outside of the AHA, except for a journal manuscript in which one-on-one embargoed media interviews can be conducted if the reporter agrees to abide by the embargo policy. Failure to honor embargo policies will result in this abstract being withdrawn and future abstracts also being barred from presentation. [Complete AHA Embargo Policy](#).

Recording Policy

- Unauthorized recording of the AHA Scientific Sessions, scientific conferences, and the AHA/ASA International Stroke Conference is prohibited, whether by video, still or digital photography, audio or any other recording or reproduction mechanism.

American Heart Association Scientific Sessions 2026

Submission Guidelines: #ScientificSessions26 Clinical Case

This includes recording of presentations and supporting audiovisual materials and poster presentations and supporting poster materials.

- The American Heart Association and American Stroke Association reserve the rights to all recordings or reproductions of presentations at AHA/ASA scientific conferences and meetings.

Use of Automated Assistive Writing Technologies and Tools

- The use of automated assistive writing technologies and tools (commonly referred to as artificial intelligence or machine learning tools) is permitted provided their use is documented, and authors assume responsibility for the content. The authors are responsible for the accuracy, validity and originality of computer-generated content. Automated assistive writing technologies do not qualify for authorship as they are unable to provide approval or consent for submission.
- If the use of these technologies has been used to carry out or generate analytical work, the tools utilized should be documented in the abstract.
- Not acceptable use:
 - AI-generated abstract with minimal or no human revision
 - AI-generated scientific ideas, claims, data, or conclusions
- For additional information, see the [World Association of Medical Editor recommendations](#).
- For your abstract submission, you will need to indicate the use of these tools.