

ACR  
Convergence  
Where Rheumatology Meets

ACR CONVERGENCE 2025  
Call for  
Session  
Suggestions  
GUIDE

#ACR25

OCTOBER 24-29 • CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

## Dear Colleagues:

**As the chair of the Annual Meeting Planning Committee (AMPC),** I want to thank you for your interest in submitting your thoughts and ideas to help develop ACR Convergence 2025, the ACR's annual meeting. We have given you additional information this year to help you submit your ideas, including topic requests from the AMPC subcommittees and session titles from recent meetings.

### **For ACR Convergence 2025, you can submit ideas in two ways:**

1. You can give us the name of a valued **speaker** that you think will teach and inspire or an **idea** that you have had for a specific session. The AMPC will take this information and will consider it as we craft sessions for ACR Convergence.
2. You can also submit a **formal session suggestion** for possible inclusion in the meeting. Information needed will include type of session, session title, session description, moderator(s), speaker(s) and topic(s), and session goals and objectives.

With over 200 session suggestions submitted each year, we cannot include all of your great ideas on the program. In addition, due to program needs as determined by your colleagues on the AMPC, your submission might be modified or combined with other ideas to create the final session for ACR Convergence.

Again, thank you for taking the time and effort to share your ideas and help make ACR Convergence 2025 in Chicago an exceptional meeting!

*Warmest regards,*

**Gregory C. Gardner, MD, MACP**  
AMPC CHAIR, 2023–2026

## ACR Convergence Mission Statement

ACR Convergence is the premier international rheumatology scientific meeting. Rheumatology professionals from around the world will be immersed in an impactful educational and networking experience each time they attend the meeting. ACR Convergence will improve the lives of people with rheumatic diseases by constantly moving the field of rheumatology forward.

## Planning Timeline

September 16, 2024: Submission Site Opens

December 10, 2024: Submission Site Closes 11:59 PM ET

October 24-29, 2025: ACR Convergence, Chicago Illinois

March 2025: Accepted Session Submitters Notified

## What Makes a Successful Session

The ACR Annual Meeting Planning Committee (AMPC) is looking for proposals that have the following attributes:

### WHO

- Speakers and moderators from diverse backgrounds (age, gender, ethnicity, geography)
- Speakers who have been recognized as excellent teachers
- Moderators who can lead a discussion and facilitate interaction among presenters

### WHAT

- High-impact sessions that move the field of rheumatology forward by addressing topics important to the field
- Sessions that showcase up-and-coming leaders in the field, as well as established leaders
- Sessions that address knowledge gaps that need educational reinforcement

### HOW

- Consider topics of interest as listed by the six AMPC subcommittees (see [Topics of Interest](#))
- Consider new topics that have not been covered at ACR Convergence over the last three years (see [2022-2024 Session Titles](#) to avoid duplication)
- Consider how your session suggestions might utilize audience engagement to increase session impact (see [Active Learning Techniques](#) for ideas on how to best accomplish this goal)

**Note:** If you have all the attributes for a successful session but have not been able to identify speakers, please submit the session without speakers and indicate in the description that assistance is needed in identifying speakers.

## Target Audience

Continuing education activities are designed to serve the professional and education needs for:

- Nurses
- Pharmacists
- Physicians
- Physician assistants
- Psychologists
- Social workers
- Research scientists
- Residents/fellows
- Other members of the healthcare team

## Session Formats For 2025

**Note:** We are interested in giving our speakers 30 minutes or more to allow them to fully develop their topics without being rushed and to make the presentations interactive where appropriate.

**SUGGESTED IDEA OR SPEAKER:** Suggest an idea for a topic, issue, or condition to be covered or a great speaker that you would like to hear. The AMPC will consider this information when crafting sessions.

**STATE OF THE ART (SOTA):** One speaker who is a recognized national/international leader in the field and an excellent teacher reviewing a selected topic. Length 45-60 minutes.

**LIMITED SYMPOSIUM:** Two speakers each with 30 minutes to develop the topic. Each speaker will be a recognized leader in the subtopic they are asked to discuss. Length 60 minutes.

**EXTENDED SYMPOSIUM:** Three speakers each with 30 minutes to develop their topic. This format is best for areas that need additional time/expertise to cover completely. Length 90 minutes.

**PANEL DISCUSSION:** Topic development is followed by 2-3 panelists discussing important questions from the moderator(s)/audience. May work well with interactive format by asking audience to respond to key questions and panelists expounding on/discussing the answers. Length generally 60 minutes.

**CURBSIDE CONSULTS:** Three speakers each with 30 minutes discussing three different challenging problems seen in the clinic and discussed by experts on the specific topics. Examples: calcinosis in scleroderma or immunizing immunosuppressed patients. Length 90 minutes.

**GREAT DEBATE:** Two known experts, typically one pro and the other con, on a key area of uncertainty in rheumatology. Example: *Is Long COVID Another Form of Fibromyalgia?* Length 60 minutes.

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## Formal Session: What Is Required

- Session title and presentation topic (if applicable)
- Suggested faculty names and email addresses
- Session type
- Session details: length, evidence-based medicine references, and state CME topic (if applicable)
- Session overview: primary topic, AMPC team topic of interest, description, rationale, and active learning techniques and activities (if applicable)
- Session learning objectives (2-3 required)

## Session Title and Description

- Session title cannot exceed 200 characters/50 words
- Session description cannot exceed 250 words
- Do not include your objectives in your description

**Disclaimer:** *We are very grateful for your input. The AMPC is charged by the ACR with developing ACR Convergence, and our 80+ committee members will carefully review your idea/session suggestion along with the approximately 200 other submissions. Please note that submissions may be modified or combined to make sure there is diversity of speakers and topics, and that the sessions address the educational needs of attendees as determined by the AMPC. We will not be able to update you on the status of your submission, but if it is accepted you will hear from the assigned AMPC session coordinator. We appreciate your time and effort to suggest ideas and sessions for ACR Convergence.*