



2026 ISBD ANNUAL CONFERENCE Symposia Submission Guidelines

DEADLINE: January 29th, 2026*

**All deadlines occur at 5:00 PM Central*

Overall Proposal by Chairs Submitted due January 22, 2026

Abstracts from Individual Participants due January 28, 2026

Chairs Review & Finalize Proposed Sessions due: January 29, 2026

Equity Statement: The quality of the submitted proposal will be the primary factor considered in the scientific review process; however, inclusion of women, early career professionals, those with lived experience of bipolar disorder, and participants from diverse geographic regions will be taken into consideration when reviewing the suitability of proposals for the program. This reflects the continuing commitment of the ISBD to seek excellence through inclusion.

General Requirements for all Submissions

- The purpose of the conference is to promote education free from product promotion, thus use of any advertising, trade names, or product-group message association is prohibited; this rule will be strictly enforced.
- To promote the opportunity for many participants to be involved in the conference, speakers are limited to no more than two (2) speaking roles in the Conference (Keynote Lecture, Symposia and Workshops).
- Speakers who have their session accepted will be eligible for a reduced registration fee. Regrettably, no financial assistance can be provided for travel or other expenses. Please note that a chair can also double as a speaker.
- Once a session is accepted, speaker changes are NOT allowed unless approved by the Program Committee Chair.
- It is the responsibility of the chair/moderator to keep the schedule approved by the Program Committee.
- All presenters' and co-authors' disclosures must appear on the first slide of the presentation. Slides will be reviewed in the speaker ready room to ensure compliance.
- Commercial logos (e.g., Company) are not permitted to appear on meeting materials, including presentation slides.

All Symposium Sessions

- A Symposium is a formal 75 minute session and includes three (3) speakers and 1 chair/moderator who can also double as a speaker.
- Each Symposium should be structured to incorporate audience member discussion, i.e., introduction 3 minutes, three presentations of 17 minutes for the actual presentation and allow 5-minutes for Q&A. At the end of the session there should be 5 minutes for concluding remarks from the Chair.

- An individual **cannot** be listed as a speaker on more than **2 accepted proposals** (Keynote Lecture, Symposium, and Workshops). If a speaker is listed on more than 2 accepted proposals, the speaker will need to find a suitable replacement which can be approved by the program chairs.
- There is a limit of 250 words for the text of the overall symposium overview.
- Individual abstracts must be submitted in English, are limited to 250 words, and may include section headers for “Aims,” “Methods,” “Results” and “Conclusion” as appropriate to the content. **No figures, tables or references are to be included in the abstract.**
- In addition to providing a brief abstract, presenters will be required to answer the following questions as a part of their submission:
 - *What is new or novel about your study/research/project? For example, do you have unpublished data or findings that are on the cusp of being published?*
 - *What is the clinical/research significance of your work? In other words, what are the key/important take home messages? Specifically, what are the implications for clinical practice – real world applications? Or what does your work mean for future research – does it advance understanding, if so, how?*
 - *Who are your target audience? Clinicians, researchers, consumers, careers? How do you intend to ensure you engage the audience and make your presentation interactive?*
- Submitters will also be asked to provide co-authors (name and affiliations only), a financial disclosure form, and at least 3 keywords for their submission.

Experts by Experience (ExE) Symposia Submissions

ISBD reserves several spaces in the program for “Experts by Experience” (ExE) talks as part of the ExE track. If accepted as an ExE symposium, your presentation will be badged in the program as an ExE event. If you identify your symposium as an ExE submission and it is NOT accepted into the ExE track, it will still be eligible for consideration in the general program.

- An “Experts by Experience” (ExE) submission must have been coproduced alongside individuals with lived experience, care partners, and/or advocacy groups.
- We occasionally have funding to support the persons with lived experience (PWLE) of bipolar disorder’s travel to the meeting. We cannot guarantee it, but if funding were to become available, PWLE who are presenting in an ExE track would be given priority for these grants.
- Coproduction goes beyond inclusion of a lived experience speaker in a proposal and involves:
 - Working with persons with lived experience (PWLE) of bipolar disorder from the outset.
 - Having a mutual discussion and understanding of the priorities of those with lived experience when developing the presentation.
 - Having a PWLE be an equal partner in the development of the symposia themes and content.
- To be considered for an ExE you should select ExE Symposium in the submissions drop-down. In addition to the workshop questions, you will have additional questions to answer listed below as part of their submission.
 - *Based on the description of coproduction above, briefly describe how this presentation was coproduced with PWLE?*
 - *What way will this presentation benefit PWLE?*

Symposia Topics

For the 2026 Annual ISBD Conference, we would like to highlight that, in addition to our primary focus on bipolar disorder, we are also accepting proposals that focus on mood disorders more broadly. Topic areas include:

Topic areas include:

- Basic research:
 - Biomarkers
 - Brain Structure and Function
 - Genetics
 - Omics
 - Physiological, Molecular, Cellular Markers and Models
 - Animal Models
- Applied research and/or clinical practice:
 - AI
 - Assessment
 - Alternative and Complementary Therapies
 - Brain Imaging
 - Clinical Trial Designs
 - Diagnosis and Classification
 - Medical Comorbidity
 - Psychiatric Comorbidity
 - Disability / Rehabilitation
 - Cognition
 - Innovative Therapeutics
 - Integrative and Holistic Treatments (i.e., pharmacological, somatic, psychological)
 - Developmental Psychopathology, Prodromes, Early Recognition
 - Illness Course, Staging
 - Psychosocial Treatments and Self-Management
 - Quality of Life
 - Stigma
 - Suicide and Self-Harm
 - Trauma
 - Updates on Treatment Guidelines
- Population Health/Analysis
 - Big Data and Advanced Analytics
 - Implementation Research
 - Population Health
 - Epidemiology
 - Economics
- Special groups
 - Advocacy and Patient Organizations
 - Children and Adolescents
 - Cultural Differences and Its Consequences
 - Racial & Ethnic Considerations
 - Sex & Gender Related Issues
 - Older Adults (the elderly)
- Hot Topics

The conference also welcomes submissions outside of the specific topics above, so long as they are relevant to bipolar and depressive disorders.