

Call for Proposals

Submission Deadline: November 1, 2026

WORK, STRESS, AND HEALTH 2027: The Human Foundation: The Future of Work and Dignity

June 22-24, 2027

Boston University
George Sherman Union
Boston, Massachusetts

Convened by:

Society for Occupational Health Psychology

<https://sohp-online.org/wsh2027/>

WORK, STRESS, AND HEALTH 2027:
The Human Foundation: The Future of Work and Dignity
Call for Proposals

We invite you to join us for the 2027 Work, Stress, and Health Conference, which will be held at Boston University in Boston, Massachusetts, June 22–24, 2027, with the preconference doctoral consortium on Monday, June 21, 2027, and post-conference activities (e.g., mid-career retreat) on June 25, 2027. This is the 17th international conference on occupational stress and health convened by the Society for Occupational Health Psychology (SOHP).

CONFERENCE THEME: THE HUMAN FOUNDATION: THE FUTURE OF WORK AND DIGNITY

The Work, Stress, and Health Conference series addresses the ever-changing nature of work and the implications of these changes for the health, safety, and well-being of workers, and organizational effectiveness. The conference covers numerous topics of interest to workers, labor unions and other worker representatives, management, employers, practitioners, and researchers.

Work is one of the most fundamental human activities: a source of meaning, identity, livelihood, and community. Yet in an era of rapid technological change, economic uncertainty and relentless efficiency pressures, the worker as a full human being risks becoming an afterthought. WSH 2027 calls us back to our foundational purpose: to ensure that work serves people, not the other way around.

Boston is no accident. This city was the cradle of a revolution, and it reminds us that human dignity is not an abstract ideal; it is something societies choose to protect. In 2027, we gather here to assert that same principle for the world of work. If AI, automation, and new forms of work organization reshape jobs, the question is not whether work will change, but whether those changes will be guided by evidence, worker voice and a commitment to health, dignity, and well-being. WSH 2027 invites occupational health scientists, practitioners, and policymakers to color outside the disciplinary lines and reclaim the human foundation: the irreducible value of workers as people, not just producers.

This year's conference sessions will be organized into four thematic pillars that speak to our overarching theme.

Pillar 1 — The Basics, Revisited

Core OHP science: job demands-resources, stress and health, safety, burnout, recovery. This track highlights research that takes us back to the fundamentals of worker health and dignity, featuring rigorous and foundational work. The guiding questions: what do we know for certain, and what has the field overlooked?

Pillar 2 — The Human and the Machine

Technology, AI, surveillance, algorithmic management, platform work. This track positions OHP as the field that holds a human-centered frame regardless of what the technology moment demands. Not a technology track; a human track that uses technology as a lens to consider worker health and dignity. The guiding questions: when efficiency gains are claimed, what are the benefits and to whom do they accrue? At what cost to workers?

Pillar 3 — Coloring Outside the Lines

Explicitly boundary-crossing submissions. This track features work that is innovative and interdisciplinary. Submissions might focus on interdisciplinary work, innovative approaches, and/or historically underserved working populations (e.g., manufacturing, agricultural, domestic, migrant, informal workers). The guiding questions: how can we build richer connections with other disciplines to serve diverse workers? What are innovative ways to understand and address worker health and dignity challenges?

Pillar 4 — From Evidence to Change

Intervention science, policy translation, practitioner application, organizational implementation. This track features applied work designed to improve worker health, wellbeing, and dignity. The guiding questions: what are we doing to improve worker health, how well is it working, and what can we do better?

CONFERENCE AT A GLANCE

The Work, Stress, and Health (WSH) Conference is a multi-disciplinary meeting with conference participants from a wide variety of fields that address worker safety, health, and well-being, including:

- **Behavioral and social sciences** (psychology, sociology, anthropology, economics, health communications)
- **Business and industry** (organized labor, management, human resources, law, occupational safety and health professionals, insurance and workers' compensation)
- **Medicine and other medical disciplines** (occupational and environmental medicine, occupational health nursing, psychiatry)
- **Public and occupational health** (epidemiology, industrial hygiene, safety engineering, health protection, and promotion)
- **Social services** (social work, employee assistance, crisis counseling)
- **Military, emergency response, and public safety**

Scientists, practitioners, and students in these and related fields, as well as professionals in business, industry, and government, are encouraged to present their work. The goal of the WSH conference is to engage participants in dynamic discussions and facilitate insights and the sharing of best practices around these topics, to improve employee safety and health, and to prevent workplace injuries and illnesses, including physical and psychological illnesses.

PRECONFERENCE DOCTORAL CONSORTIUM

We are pleased to announce the second annual Doctoral Consortium—a full-day event designed to empower the next generation of occupational health psychology scholars and practitioners. This consortium offers a unique and valuable opportunity to connect with peers, network with established professionals in the field, and build lasting relationships within the OHP community.

Throughout the day, you'll engage in interactive sessions focused on key areas for early career development, including effective and inclusive teaching practices, how to strategically build and sustain your research pipeline, and navigating diverse career paths in academia, applied practice, or both. Whether you're just starting your doctoral journey or preparing for the next big step, this consortium is designed to offer practical tools, inspiration, and a supportive professional network. We will also have a networking lunch where you can connect with other students and professionals in OHP. Don't miss this exciting opportunity to learn, connect, and grow at the start of what promises to be a valued annual tradition!

REGISTRATION FEES

	Early by March 30, 2027	Regular after March 30, 2027
SOHP members	\$450	\$550
Student members	\$175	\$250
Nonmembers	\$600	\$700

* Want to become a member? Student members can join for \$25! Professionals can join for \$55!

<https://sohp-online.org/membership/join-or-renew-membership/>

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Please read the submission instructions carefully. Incomplete or incorrect submissions will not be considered. **Submit all proposals online linked [here](https://app.oxfordabstracts.com/stages/81786/submitter) (or copy <https://app.oxfordabstracts.com/stages/81786/submitter> into your browser)!**

IMPORTANT: Submission of a proposal implies a commitment to present at the conference.

Eligibility of Presentations: Except by special invitation from the planning committee, any works (e.g., journal articles, book chapters, books) that have been previously published, presented at another conference, or already accepted/contracted for publication should not be submitted.

Rule of Three: A conference participant may be the lead author or presenter of no more than three program submissions (poster, paper, paper in a symposium, or presenter on a panel).

PLEASE SUBMIT PROPOSALS FOR THE FOLLOWING TYPES OF SESSIONS:

POSTER SESSIONS: Poster sessions provide for the direct interaction of authors or presenters with the audience. Posters will be grouped by topic area. Each author or presenter will have the opportunity to discuss their work and to respond to questions. No paper sessions, symposia, or interactive panels will be scheduled during the poster sessions. Poster presentations will be bound by the same review process as paper sessions. Detailed instructions on preparing a poster will be sent to authors whose proposals are accepted for a poster presentation.

PAPER SESSIONS: Paper sessions permit individuals to discuss their topics and/or present their research in a session along with other papers in their topic area. The conference planning committee assembles the paper submissions into themed groups and assigns a chair for each session. Each session will have no more than four presenters. The session will conclude with 10-20 minutes for questions and a discussion moderated by the chair.

SYMPOSIA: A symposium permits a *group* of colleagues to *organize* and present a series of findings from a large project or a series of presentations addressing a common theme, issue, or question. This may be a collection of presentations by people in business or industry, a collection of research presentations, or some of each. A symposium consists of a chairperson (who may also be a presenter) and three-four separate presenters. The inclusion of a discussant is optional. The symposium chairperson will introduce the topic and each presenter. The session will conclude with 15-20 minutes for questions and a discussion moderated by the discussant or symposium chair. The presentations are submitted together as one proposal. The quality of individual presentations, as well as their coherence, will be considered when determining the overall quality of the symposium.

PANELS: This type of session is particularly well-suited for practitioner presentations on organizational approaches to address occupational stress and to promote worker well-being. Panel sessions facilitate in-depth discussion of conference topics through a series of closely related, brief presentations and/or a facilitated discussion with panelists. Panels should consist of a chairperson and four-to-eight panelists with approximately half of the session dedicated to interactive discussion. This format provides the audience with a rapid and intensive overview of a topic while also allowing for more in-depth dialogue among presenters and the audience. During panel sessions, presenters will make brief presentations or remarks (i.e., pertaining to best practices, organizational or training interventions, relevant research studies, literature, or new approaches) followed by interaction and discussion with the chair, other panelists, and audience members. The session will conclude with 15-20 minutes for questions and a discussion moderated by the discussant or symposium chair. Similar to a symposium, those interested in participating in a panel session should collaborate with colleagues to organize and propose a complete session.

LATE-BREAKING RESEARCH: Late-breaking abstract submissions will be considered for presentation as posters; some may be considered for paper presentations. **Proposals must be received no later than March 1, 2027.** This late-breaking category of submissions has been created to permit very recent results to be presented at the conference. This is the only exception to the submission deadline of **November 1, 2026.**

ELEMENTS OF A PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

Title – Titles must not exceed 25 words.

Abstract – You will enter an abstract of your paper briefly summarizing the key points (maximum 250 words). This abstract will be used for the online program.

Submission Topic – This list of primary and secondary topics overlaps to some degree and is not exhaustive. When you submit a proposal, you will be asked to select *up to three* [primary topics](#) that best characterize your submission. Within each primary topic, you will be asked to select *up to three* [secondary topics](#).

Submission Pillar (NEW!) – Indicate which of the four conference pillars the submission fits into. Multiple pillars can be selected. Please see a description of each pillar in the [Conference Theme section](#) above.

Industries – Indicate the occupation/industry category(ies) that is most relevant to the submission (e.g., best describe(s) the population/sample/study participants). Options are two-digit NAICS sectors, [click here for more information and examples](#).

Focus of Proposal – You may optionally choose which research designs or components best describe the content in your submission.

Type of Session – Choose your preference for submission type: poster; paper; symposium; or panel. If submitting a paper, be sure to indicate whether you are willing to present as a poster if your submission is not accepted as a paper.

Presenters and Affiliations – You **MUST** enter the names of ALL authors here - including yourself if you are an author - in the order in which you wish them to appear in the printed text (for symposiums, this includes all authors on all papers). List the name, presentation role, professional role, affiliation and contact information for all presenters.

Proposed Session Length - Symposium and panel submissions must select if they would prefer a 70 minute time slot or a 90 minute time slot. There will be fewer 90 minute time slots than 70 minute time slots on the final program.

Award Competitions – Check if you want to have your proposal considered for the [Best Intervention and/or the Best Student Research Competition\(s\)](#).

Idea Development Session (NEW!) – Check if you would like your paper considered for an idea development session. These are paper sessions in which presenters have 8-10 minutes to present their project. Discussants will be experienced occupational health scholars and professionals who provide developmental feedback on the content of each presentation during the session. Priority will be given to early career scholars.

Review File – You will upload a document (Word or PDF) that includes the following information (maximum 800 words, excluding title, references, tables, and figures). Please do not include identifying information in this document.

1. Purpose/objectives

- Purpose/objectives of this work
- Hypotheses and research questions, if applicable

2. Background

- Essential background on the topic or issue
- The real-world and/or research context around this work
- Published literature relevant to this work
- Evidence and practice gaps, and how this work addresses them

3. Methods

- Research design and procedures, including treatment conditions, if applicable
- Details on sampling, participants, and/or other data sources
- Key details about measures and materials
- Data collection processes/protocols
- Analyses
- *NOTE: In this section make sure to clearly indicate whether this work is complete (i.e., data have been collected and analyses have been completed) or not. If not, clearly indicate how far along this work is toward completion.*

4. Findings

- Findings/results, if applicable
- Include graphs, tables, and figures where appropriate and when narrative summary in text is less efficient
- *NOTE: Empirical work must include data from analyses that are completed by the time of presentation at the conference. If either data or results are not yet available, please describe how the analyses will be completed by this deadline.*

5. Discussion

- Interpretation of findings/results, in the context of the overall study paradigm
- Strengths and limitations
- Current results compared to other previous work
- Practical implications, future directions, and key take-away points

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Scheduling of Presentations: Presenters of accepted proposals must participate at the scheduled presentation time or arrange to have the presentation delivered by an appropriate substitute. See the main [conference website](#) for the latest information.

Religious or other time constraints: People with time constraints for religious or other reasons must bring this information to the attention of the program committee when submitting presentation proposals.

Scientific Peer Review: All proposals will undergo scientific peer review. In order to maintain the anonymity of the scientific peer review process, please do **not** include any author information, affiliations, or other personal identifiers within the text of your abstract or brief summary.

Notification of Proposal Status: Corresponding presenters will receive notifications regarding all submitted proposals by email in January 2027.

BEST PAPER COMPETITION AWARDS

These awards are for the two best papers accepted for the conference in the following categories:

Best Intervention Competition

This competition will recognize outstanding evaluations of interventions that partner researchers with industry and/or labor to prevent occupational injuries and illnesses, and to promote safety and health at work. Evaluations may be of any type of intervention in a program, study, or other activity relevant to occupational health psychology. Nominations will be asked to submit a full length manuscript in February for evaluation. Please see additional description and instructions [here](#).

Best Student Research Competition

This competition will recognize and draw attention to the outstanding student research that is being conducted in occupational health psychology. Nominations will be asked to submit a full length manuscript in February for evaluation. Please see additional description and instructions [here](#).

If you would like your submission to be considered for one or both competitions, please mark the appropriate check boxes when submitting your proposal. More information is available on the conference website regarding the procedures and timeline for both competitions.

CONFERENCE UPDATES AND SCHEDULING

Registration and hotel reservation information will be available on March 30, 2027

All information about submission status will be communicated to the corresponding author. The corresponding author may or may not be the presenting author.

Direct all submission and program-related questions to:

Dr. Kim French

Work, Stress, and Health Program Committee Chair

Associate Professor and I-O Psychology Program Coordinator, Colorado State University

Email: programwsh@sohp-online.org

For other conference questions, please contact the WSH Conference Co-chairs:

Dr. Ashley Nixon and Dr. Gloria Gonzalez-Morales

Email: wsh@sohp-online.org

All submissions (posters, papers, panels, and symposia) must be received by November 1, 2026.

Late-breaking research proposals must be received by March 1, 2027.