



PATH INTERNATIONAL

Professional Association of Therapeutic
Horsemanship International

CONFERENCE 2023

October 26-28 | Charlotte, NC

CALL for ABSTRACTS

WHO SHOULD PRESENT?

- Credentialed Professionals
- Mental Health Professionals
- Center Program Directors
- EAL Professionals
- Researchers
- Animal-Human Bond Specialists
- Educators
- Special Education Experts
- Veterinary Services
- Healthcare Providers
- ... and more!

INSIDE:

- Abstract review
- Poster sessions
- Electronic submission
- Venue
- Guidelines
- Dates
- ... and more

Join us for the premier event in equine-assisted services

PATH Intl. is actively soliciting abstracts on important research, best practices, trends and developments that are of significance to association membership and other conference attendees.

The association is especially interested in receiving abstracts from presenters with information relevant to the field of equine-assisted services (EAS), describing innovative programs, research or other related information.

Topics of interest include, but are not limited to:

- Administration
- Equine health and behavior
- Approved, completed research
- Program/Instructor areas of interest
- Therapies in equine-assisted services
- EAP/EAC
- Hippotherapy as a treatment strategy
- PT/OT/SLP
- Equine-assisted learning in education, organizations, and personal development
- Horsemanship
- Volunteer management
- Special populations (disabilities, geriatrics, addictions, veterans, etc.)

NOTE: *It is not appropriate nor permitted for presentations to focus on selling or promoting materials or products. This includes but is not limited to therapeutic methodologies, products useful in EAS programs, software or internet applications.*

WHY PRESENT?

Presenting at the PATH Intl. Conference:

- Gives credentialed professionals, volunteers, board members, administrators, mental health providers and others in this field the tools to improve the services they offer to individuals of all ages who have a broad spectrum of special needs.
- Empowers equine caretakers to maximize the level of welfare provided for the animals in EAS programs.

- Supports a group of hardworking, caring professionals in a fascinating and rewarding field.

WHO SHOULD PRESENT?

Credentialed and mental health professionals, equine-assisted learning professionals, as well as individuals from the healthcare and veterinarian professions are encouraged to apply. Individuals from the education and special education fields, research professionals focusing their work on the animal-human bond, center program directors, and administrative personnel are all welcome to apply.

Professionals able to empower attendees with their fresh and innovative expertise in fund development, volunteer management or facilities management are also encouraged to submit an abstract.

PRESENTATION SELECTION

Individuals interested in presenting at the PATH Intl. Conference must submit the completed abstract submission form to PATH Intl. by **March 22, 2023, 11:59 p.m., Mountain Standard Time**. No abstracts will be accepted after this date! The PATH Intl. Health and Education Advisory will select speakers for the sessions from the abstracts submitted. (See Abstract Review Process on page 4.)

Abstract Submissions Due:

March 22, 2023, 11:59 p.m., MST

Decision Date:

Allow six weeks for review process.
Notifications will be sent via email.

Conference:

October 26-28, 2023

HANDOUT AND PRESENTATION GUIDELINES

If your abstract is accepted for presentation, you must submit an electronic handout/outline of your presentation to be given to all conference attendees. This can be as simple as a PDF version of your presentation slides. Prior to the conference, attendees will be able to download handouts from the Whova event app. If you plan to use video, please embed the video into the presentation. Presenters are responsible for providing their own laptop and HDMI connection equipment.

There is no conference fee discount for poster presenters or travel reimbursement for any presenters.

SPEAKER REGISTRATION FEE

Keeping expenses and conference fees at a minimum has been a primary factor in the continued success of the conference. To express gratitude toward those classroom presenters selected, PATH Intl. is able to offer a choice of one of two discount registration options:

1 Presenters who plan to participate in the full conference, i.e., attend any sessions, partake in any meals or functions, etc., may deduct \$100 from one registration fee. If the presentation is given by multiple presenters, the discount remains \$100 total and may be used by one person or shared between presenters. If a presenter is teaching multiple sessions, only one discount will be permitted. Speakers must register with a hard copy registration form, which is faxed, emailed or mailed.

OR

2 Presenters who will only be on site on the day they are presenting and who DO NOT plan to attend any other educational offering, meal or event on any day are not required to register or pay a fee.



ABOUT PATH INTL.

PATH Intl. was formed in 1969 as the North American Riding for the Handicapped Association. Since then the association has grown to reflect a dynamic field that continues to further discover and define the benefits derived from humans partnering with equines. PATH Intl. currently represents and supports **813 member centers** that offer therapeutic riding, interactive vaulting, carriage driving, equine-assisted learning, psychotherapy/counseling and therapies incorporating equines.

Globally, **5,424 PATH Intl. Certified Professionals** and nearly **7,000 individual members** represent every continent except Antarctica. Through its field-tested safety standards and peer-reviewed accreditation process, PATH Intl. has been a leader in demonstrating and promoting safety and professionalism in a rapidly growing and fascinating field.

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

The growth of equine-assisted services (EAS) have resulted in an urgent need for industry leading education and research. The PATH Intl. Conference provides a forum to learn, discuss and evaluate current and future industry trends and practices. This professional setting facilitates study and reflection with colleagues and outside-the-industry experts on major current topics.

Each year the PATH Intl. Conference delivers the most valuable and comprehensive EAS education opportunities available. Attendees are comprised of PATH Intl. Credentialed Professionals, program administrators, volunteers, board members, participants, therapists, healthcare professionals and individuals new to the industry. Knowledge and expertise are shared through workshops, sessions and networking along with fun events.



Abstract Review Process

An abstract is a brief summary of an entire presentation; it allows the reader to survey the contents of the project quickly. Members of the PATH Intl. Health and Education Advisory conduct a blind evaluation of each abstract. Each reviewer evaluates the abstract based on the required format and criteria for abstract submission.

Authors whose abstracts are selected for presentation (oral or poster) will receive further instructions regarding the presentation.

HOW TO WRITE YOUR ABSTRACT: GENERAL CRITERIA FOR ALL ABSTRACTS

A complete abstract is clear, accurate, comprehensive, concise and self-contained. The topic is covered with enough detail so that no questions are left in the reader's mind.

Please include the following:

- A statement of the purpose or objective of the material being presented.
- A description or explanation of the presentation's content, such as the specific program, theories, practices, methods, techniques or data to be discussed.
- References on qualifications to present this topic. (e.g. 20 years teaching EAS)
- A summary of the principle points of the presentation.
- Abstract text that is informative, coherent and logical.
- Standardized language. Check the current *PATH Intl. Standards for Certification and Accreditation*.
- If the presentation will include pictures and/or video of any participant, volunteer, etc., the presenter **must** have written consent from the individuals in the pictures and/or video.
- If an abstract submitter plans to present any research (formal scientific process for investigation) a center or individual has conducted, this plan **must** be disclosed in the abstract, and the research project must have received appropriate human and/or animal subject review board approval. (See below for Research Submission Criteria.)
- The content proposed in the abstract and accepted for presentation is the content that **must** be presented. Deviations from this may result in presenter(s) not being accepted for future conferences.

SPECIFIC CRITERIA FOR REPORTING OF RESEARCH PROJECTS

- Abstracts on research must be submitted on completed projects.
- Research must be conducted by individuals qualified through education to conduct research.
- If presenting an original research project, follow the headings as outlined on the Abstract Submission form.
- The research project must be approved by the appropriate ethics committee when human and/or animal subjects are involved. The ethics committee for human subjects is commonly called the Institutional Review Board (IRB). The name of the committee and when the project was reviewed **MUST** be included in the abstract information and the author must be prepared to provide proof of approval as requested.
- The oral research presentation should be a translation of your research project into a PowerPoint presentation and should include the following:
 1. The research question or problem
 2. Why the question or problem is important
 3. The research methods
 4. The results of the research
 - a. Graphs and diagrams are very helpful
 - b. Visuals need to be clear and large enough to see from the back of the room.
 5. Discussion/conclusion
 6. Future work
- Be sure to leave enough time for questions.

SPECIFIC CRITERIA FOR THERAPIES

Therapies include physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech language pathology, psychotherapy/ counseling and recreational therapy—all incorporating equines. Therapy providers are licensed and credentialed in their discipline.¹ The following criteria pertain to abstracts related to therapy:

- A licensed provider must author or co-author the presentation. The licensed provider must also be able to present the information.
- When describing the population in research of those receiving a treatment, use acceptable standard diagnosis(es) terminology (e.g., DSM V, ICDM). Diagnosis(es) must have been made by a qualified licensed provider.
- For patients/clients identified above, a licensed provider must have implemented the treatment or program.

POSTER SESSION

The PATH Intl. Conference will include a poster session. Presenters may submit an abstract for the poster session by following the same directions as those for the traditional oral classroom presentation as outlined in the “Abstract Review Process.” During the electronic submission process, please indicate whether you are submitting an abstract for the poster session or an oral classroom presentation. Additional instructions for posters may be found by clicking on the *Guidelines for Poster Presentations* at

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1WXqzhsPqcD0vD8sLBhH6rVnhUy9zykD/view?usp=sharing>.



Electronic Submission Process

- 1 Applicants must use the abstract submission method found at <https://forms.gle/AmjxVznrYtCNZEap7>.
- 2 When completing the electronic submission form:
 - List only general presenter information in the biographical summary. That is, do not include any specific information that may identify the presenter(s) (e.g., the exact name of a center). Please keep presenter name(s) and center name(s) anonymous.
 - Use complete sentences in write-in boxes.
 - Spell out all acronyms the first time used. This includes acronyms in the biographical summary.
 - If your presentation requires an equine, the abstract will be considered for a pre-conference session. All abstract criteria must be met.
- 3 All abstracts must be received by PATH Intl., in proper format, by **March 22, 2023, 11:59 p.m., MST**.
- 4 Presenters will receive a confirmation of receipt via electronic mail.
- 5 All abstract presenters must be reachable via email and be able to accept email attachments.

REVIEW OF ABSTRACTS

Reviewers will evaluate whether:

- 1 The topic is original, relevant and applicable to the EAS industry.
- 2 The topic makes a significant contribution to EAS.
- 3 The abstract meets the criteria listed above.
- 4 Presenter agrees to follow PATH Intl. Standards and terminology.
- 5 Presenter explains how the abstract will be interactive.

¹ Rugari, S. M., Major, S. M., & Kennedy, A.(2013). A horse is a horse—and sometimes part of a clinical team, too. *American Nurse Today*, 8(9), www.americannurse.com

TO SUBMIT AN ABSTRACT:

<https://forms.gle/jbP19iuDp8e23GiM8>

WATCH the video by Dr. Terry Chase for
Abstract Tips:

<https://youtu.be/HFAKRw99krY>

DEADLINE:

March 22, 2023, 11:59 p.m. MST

QUESTIONS?

Email education@pathintl.org



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