



CALL FOR PROPOSALS

2027 Annual Conference



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Introduction

The Association for Dental Safety (ADS) invites proposals for the 2027 Annual Conference. The conference is designed primarily for professionals with intermediate-to-advanced expertise in dental infection prevention, occupational health, and patient safety. We encourage proposals that move beyond introductory concepts and instead provide:

- Advanced application of standards, guidelines, and evidence
- Practical implementation strategies
- Emerging research and scientific developments
- Complex case studies and problem solving
- Lessons learned from real-world implementation
- New tools, data, or innovative approaches

Note: Foundational sessions considered only if they fill a significant program gap.

Important Dates

- **September 18:** Deadline for Proposals
- **November:** Emailed Notifications
- **June 2 – 4, 2027:** Annual Conference – St. Louis, MO

How to Submit

- Submit online:
<https://site.pheedloop.com/portal/event/EVELJKSLGJQGP/submission/CAL2YC44GQ4OT10/>
- Draft in a word processor, then paste into the portal
- You may edit submissions until the deadline
- Questions: office@MyADS.org

Presentation Formats

- **Forum (1.5 hours, up to 2 speakers)**
Discussion-driven; current trends, best practices, and idea-sharing. Designed for peer learning (e.g., consultants, corporate, educators, DSOs, public health).
- **Breakout (1 hour, up to 2 speakers)**
Expert-led, in-depth presentation on a focused topic (up to three detailed aspects; case studies/scenarios welcome)

or

Interactive workshop—hands-on learning, skill-building, debates/demonstrations with action planning.

Note: The committee may accept all or part of a proposal and may edit titles/objectives/speakers or combine sessions.

Conference Participants

The conference serves the professional and educational needs of various professionals. Those in **bold** are our largest audiences.

Professional Roles

Administrator

Association/Non-Profit
Management

Compliance Officer/Risk Manager

Consultant/Lecturer

Customer Service Department

Dental Assistant

Dental Hygienist

Dentist

Educator/Program Director

Federal Agency Personnel
Industry Executive

Infection Control Coordinator

Inspector/Investigator
Lab Technician

Marketing/Product Development

Nurse

Office Manager/Practice Manager

Policy Maker

Researcher

Sales Representative

School Sealant Coordinator

Scientist

Service Technician

State Agency Personnel

Sterilization Technician

Work Settings

Association/Non-Profit

Community Health Center (CHC)

Compliance/Risk Management

Dental Clinic Through a Dental

School

Distributor/ Manufacturer

DSO

Educational Setting

Federal Agency

FQHC or Public Health Facility

Group Practice

Hospital-Based Dental Clinic

IHS/Tribal Health

Organization/Tribal Urban Clinic

Military-Based Dental Practice

Retired

School Sealant Program

Self-Employed

Solo Practice

State Agency

Proposal Requirements

- Provide sufficient detail for evaluation; vague descriptions (e.g., “will review topic A”) risk rejection
- Use the main speaker’s email; if submitting for someone else, use their email
- You may edit your submission until **September 18**

****Enter the main speaker’s email .**

If you are submitting on someone else's behalf, use their email, not yours.**

The screenshot displays the '2027 ADS Annual Conference Submission Portal'. A progress bar at the top indicates the steps: Start, Session, Additional Details, Cospeakers, Profile, Files, and Success. The 'Proposal Application' step is currently active. The main content area provides information about the conference, including a list of topics to be addressed: Advanced application of standards, guidelines, and evidence; Practical implementation strategies; Emerging research and scientific developments; Complex case studies and problem solving; Lessons learned from real-world implementation; and New tools, data, or innovative approaches. A note specifies that foundational sessions are considered only if they fill a significant program gap. The application deadline is September 18. A text prompt asks the user to enter the main speaker's email, with a note that if submitting on someone else's behalf, their email should be used. A purple button labeled 'Enter speaker's email address' points to the 'Speaker Email' input field. A 'Next' button is located at the bottom left of the form.

Required Fields

Title

Max 150 characters; title case per AP style; avoid ALL CAPS; make it dynamic and conclusive. [Click here to Capitalize My Title.](#)

Session Description

Max 5,000 characters (posted as submitted if accepted). Show how the session exceeds foundational content. Specify problems attendees will solve, advanced skills gained, and evidence they can apply immediately. Write concisely in second person; avoid opinions or promotional content. Need help wording your description? [Try ChatGPT!](#)

Learning Objectives

Up to three (3) measurable learning objectives. Stem: “After participating in this session, learners will be able to...”. Use [Bloom’s Taxonomy](#) action verbs (e.g., Describe, Explain, Apply); avoid vague verbs (Understand, Know, Be aware).

NEW! Category

Select one.

- **Research/Science:** Original studies, evidence syntheses, or surveillance analyses that advance the scientific basis of practice
- **Emerging Diseases:** Timely content on new or resurging infectious threats and their operational impact on dental practices.
- **Innovations:** New or recently adopted technologies, methods, or models for IPC with early evidence of effectiveness or feasibility.
- **Regulations/Guidance:** Interpretation and operationalization of laws, regulations, standards, and authoritative guidance for dental settings.
- **Practical/Implementation:** Applied, how-to sessions showing how to execute, improve, or scale infection prevention in dental settings with measurable outcomes.

Format

Select one.

- Forum
- Breakout

Career Stage

Select one.

- **Beginner** (Foundational concepts; assumes little prior knowledge)
- **Intermediate** (Assumes attendees understand the fundamentals and focuses on application, implementation, or problem solving)
- **Advanced** (Assumes significant experience and explores emerging science, complex scenarios, advanced implementation, leadership, or controversial topics)
- **All Levels**

Why This Session Matters

Max 1,000 characters; state what attendees already know and how you advance beyond basics.

Keywords

List 2–3 high-level terms (e.g., antibiotic stewardship, culture of safety).

Scientific Articles/References

List 2 - 3 scientific articles/references related to your topic that will be used in your presentation.

Commercial Interest

ADA CERP defines a commercial interest as an entity whose primary business is producing, marketing, selling, re-selling, or distributing healthcare products used by or on patients, or an entity that is owned or controlled by an entity whose primary business is producing, marketing, selling, re-selling, or distributing healthcare products used by or on patients.

Owners or employees of commercial interests may be ineligible to act as speaker because of the opportunity to introduce commercial bias. The following exceptions are situations where owners or employees of a commercial interest may be eligible to act as instructors:

- Content of the CE is not related to the business lines or products of their employer/company.
- Content of the CE is limited to basic science research (e.g., preclinical research and drug discovery), methodologies of research, and no care recommendations are given.
- Participating as technicians to teach the safe and proper use of medical devices, do not recommend whether or when a device is used.

If you are an owner or employee of a commercial interest, you will need to attest that you understand you may be ineligible to speak if your presentation does not fit into the exceptions listed above.

Disclosure of Relevant Financial Relationships/Conflicts

Disclose for all speakers (or state “Not Applicable”).

Resume/CV

Upload a resume/CV for each speaker (required)

Sponsorship Disclosure and Payment Policy

Speaker acknowledges and agrees that any sponsorship, financial support, or in-kind contribution from third-party companies (“Sponsor”) in connection with Speaker’s participation at the 2027 ADS Annual Conference must be fully disclosed to ADS. All sponsorship funds shall be paid directly to ADS, not to the Speaker. ADS will be solely responsible for disbursing any agreed compensation to the Speaker in accordance with this Agreement. Speaker shall provide ADS with a completed IRS Form W-9 (or equivalent tax documentation, if applicable) prior to payment.

If Speaker identifies or introduces a potential Sponsor to help offset the costs of their participation, ADS may, at its discretion, accept such sponsorship support; however, all funds must still flow through ADS to ensure proper accounting, tax compliance, and consistency with ADS’s sponsorship and event policies. Speaker(s) shall not accept direct payment, benefits, or in-kind contributions from any Sponsor without the prior written approval of ADS.

Any approved sponsorship recognition shall be managed and coordinated exclusively by ADS to ensure alignment with event branding, messaging, and obligations to official event sponsors. Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed as creating an endorsement by ADS of any Sponsor.

Speaker Compensation

50% discount on conference registration. Speakers cover travel, lodging, ground transport, meals not included, and any special event fees. Speakers pay for guests/spouses.

Co-Speakers

Provide info and bios (bios published).

Profile

Upload headshot and bio; complete profile fields.

Additional Files

Optional (slides, handouts, papers).

Eligibility Requirements

- Members and non-members may submit
- Complete all required fields; incomplete forms are not reviewed
- No promotion of specific products, drugs, devices, services, or techniques
- Sessions may be scheduled any time June 2–4, 2027; speakers must be available in person
- Proposals must be submitted online (no email submissions)

Submission Checklist

- Does this session move beyond introductory concepts?
- Will participants learn something they cannot easily obtain from an introductory webinar?
- Does the session provide evidence, implementation strategies, research findings, or advanced applications?
- Is there a clear takeaway participants can immediately apply?
- Is participant engagement incorporated?

Review and Selection Process

Criteria include content relevance, clarity, format, interactivity, writing quality, learning objectives, past success, topic saturation, speaker evaluations, and overall contribution.

Preference may be given to proposals that:

- Present emerging evidence or new scientific findings
- Demonstrate measurable outcomes or implementation success
- Include original research or quality improvement initiatives

- Address complex or evolving challenges in infection prevention and safety
- Provide advanced application beyond introductory education
- Include meaningful participant engagement

Submissions are peer-reviewed using the evaluation rubric. The committee may accept all or part of a proposal and may edit or combine sessions.

Evaluation Rubric

Criterion		4- Excellent	3-Good	2-Fair	1-Needs Extensive Improvement
Content		Presents issues of immediate relevance and importance for dental IPC, occupational health, and/or patient safety, with evidence-based current best practices while advancing knowledge through practical implementation, emerging science, original data, or advanced application.	Focuses on issues and evidence based on current best practices in dental IPC, occupational health, and/or patient safety.	Is related to dental IPC, occupational health, and/or patient safety, but does not contain information relevant to best practices.	Proposal does not clearly focus on issues of importance and relevance to best practices in dental IPC, occupational health, and/or patient safety.
Audience Level		Clearly designed for an intermediate or advanced audience; provides meaningful depth, application, or new insights beyond foundational content.	Appropriate depth for intended audience with some advanced application.	Mostly introductory with limited application or depth.	Primarily basic or foundational content without sufficient depth for the ADS audience.
Clarity		The title, session description, and learning objectives clearly describe the session.	The title, session description, and learning objectives are generally well described.	The title, session description, and learning objectives are unclear.	The title, session description, and learning objectives are incomplete and unclear.
Format	Forum	Demonstrates a high level of interactivity, discussion, and peer-to-peer learning for a specific professional role/work setting.	Describes some active learning and interaction among participants within a specific professional role/work setting.	Describes little interaction among participants for a specific professional role/work setting.	Describes no interaction among participants within specific professional role/work setting.
	Lecture	Clearly addresses the Conference learning objective(s) in a well-organized, provocative, and interactive format.	Addresses the Conference learning objective(s) in a well-organized format.	Does not clearly describe how it addresses the Conference learning objective(s), or the format and organization of the session are unclear.	Does not demonstrate a connection to the Conference learning objective(s), and the format and organization of the session are unclear.
Professional Writing		Proposal is well written.	Proposal has minor errors and would require some editing.	Proposal has errors and would require significant editing.	Proposal requires complete rewriting.
Contribution		Proposal will make a significant contribution and should attract many participants.	Proposal would make a meaningful contribution and should be of interest to at least one section or group of participants.	Proposal will make a small contribution and will be of interest to a few participants.	Proposal will make no contribution and will attract few participants.

Speaker(s)	Recognized subject-matter expert with a strong teaching record (e.g., high prior evaluations); fully discloses conflicts and complies with ADA CERP (no promotion/commercial bias).	Solid relevant expertise with some teaching experience; appropriate disclosures; low risk of commercial bias.	Limited or indirect expertise with minimal teaching evidence; disclosures incomplete or unclear; potential commercial bias not fully addressed.	Lacks relevant expertise and teaching experience; does not disclose conflicts; includes promotional content or clear commercial bias.
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Speaker Compensation

50% discount on conference registration. Speakers cover travel, lodging, ground transport, meals not included, and any special event fees. Speakers pay for guests/spouses.

Continuing Education Information

ADA CERP Recognition



The Association for Dental Safety (ADS) is an ADA Continuing Education Recognition Program (CERP) Provider.

ADA CERP is a service of the American Dental Association to assist dental professionals in identifying quality providers of continuing dental education. ADA CERP does not approve or endorse individual courses or instructors, nor does it imply acceptance of credit hours by boards of dentistry.

Concerns or complaints about a CE provider may be directed to the provider or to the Commission for Continuing Education Provider Recognition at [ADA.org/CERP](https://ada.org/CERP).

The maximum number of continuing education credits will be announced in Spring 2027.

CE Guidelines

- **Owners/employees of a commercial interest cannot speak on sessions related to their company's business lines/products**
- Presentations must address conference learning objectives:
 - Describe current and emerging issues in infection prevention and safety in oral healthcare
 - Demonstrate implementation of best practices, new resources, and tools to facilitate compliance
 - Identify attributes to develop/enhance leadership for optimal delivery of infection prevention and The Safest Dental Visit
- Provide a balanced, evidence-based view; use generic names where possible; if trade names are used, also reference competitors
- Disclose relevant financial relationships (speaker and immediate family) in writing before the activity; disclose "no relevant relationships" when applicable

CE Disclaimer

Content is planned by the Annual Conference Planning Committee for educational value; no ADS endorsement implied. Speakers must present balanced options, avoid falsified images/misrepresentation, avoid product promotion, and support recommendations with current peer-reviewed science. ADS is not liable for a speaker's failure to disclose interests.