

# SOMA 2027 Scientific Assembly Call for Presentations

## *Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)*

### What is SOMA seeking?

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The SOMA Program Committee is seeking high-quality submissions for concurrent track podium presentations, medic clinical vignettes, labs, and research podium presentations and posters in a variety of areas that address important medical challenges and issues, increase the knowledge and skills of SOF and non-military prehospital providers, and promote the development of new best practices and technologies.

### What are the session types?

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- **Labs:** In-depth, hands-on education and training designed for austere and prehospital environments. Submissions may target basic, intermediate, or advanced skill levels. Please state your intended audience and recommended skill level to optimize participant experience.
  - These sessions may include students that come from DoD, SOF, non-military, tactical, or international agencies with skill levels ranging from the medic to senior surgeons. Labs may offer either a certification or CME/CE/CAPCE as specified in the published program. Programs can also be designed and hosted by specific units for additional offsite training opportunities (for example, Non-Trauma Module requirements and specialized certifications such as Advanced Burn Life Support or Advanced Hazmat Life Support).
- **Presentations (Podium & Medic Clinical Vignette):** Submit proposals for podium presentations or medic clinical vignettes.
  - **Each proposal should select the most appropriate educational track:** Austere Resuscitative Surgical Care (ARSC), Brain Health (BH), Human Performance and Resiliency (HP), International, Military Special Operations Forces (MilSOF), Tactical Emergency Medical Services (TEMS), and Medical Support of Irregular Warfare (MSIW).
- **Research:** SOMA welcomes submissions in Original Research, Process/Quality Improvement (QI/PI), and Case Report/Vignette.
  - **Research track guidance:**
    - Case Reports are Poster-only.
    - Original Research and QI/PI will be considered for podium by default unless you select “Poster,” which indicates that your submission is for a research poster only.

### What are the formats for the submissions and durations?

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- **Labs:** 2, 4, or 8 hours. Labs under 8 hours are typically run twice during the conference (exceptions possible). Full-day (8-hour) labs are typically scheduled Monday; if you cannot teach a full day Monday, please consider a shorter lab.
- **Podium Presentations:** 20 or 30 minutes in a concurrent track. Medic Clinical Vignettes are 20–30 minutes. Track leaders may adjust the final length if accepted.
- **Research:** Research submissions are separate from concurrent track podium presentations. Research podium presentations are 10–15 minutes.

## What are the tracks for concurrent podium presentations?

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Podium presentations are categorized within the program schedule using the educational tracks listed below. The online submission proposal form will allow you to select which track is most applicable to your proposal.

★ **Austere Resuscitative Surgical Care (ARSC):** The ARSC track is seeking high quality submissions about emergency resuscitative care within the austere environment. These presentations can include but are not limited to novel methods of surgical team implementation and integration, novel techniques adapted for austere environments, after action reports related to high profile events, new projects or developments in your ARSC unit, and strategic level overview of the ARSC units. This is open to military and civilians working in this unique environment. Submissions of relevant presentations accepted at other national meetings with our partners are also encouraged.

★ **Brain Health (BH):** The Brain Health track focuses on advancements and learning in relation to traumatic brain injuries (TBI) and treatments including but not limited to emergency care, rehabilitation, medication, medical devices, biomarkers, and nutritional therapies.

★ **Human Performance and Resiliency (HP):** The HP track is seeking high quality submissions that provide real-life examples and/or evidence-based reviews of technology, data, and best practices to optimize performance, reduce injuries, speed recovery times, and foster physical, mental, and emotional wellness.

★ **International:** The International track invites everyone from the international community to submit proposals pertaining to SOF medicine at all levels of care. Particularly welcomed are submissions from tactical/support medics (e.g., NSOCM/NSOMT, etc.), although submissions from physicians and other personnel working in the SOF medicine environment will also be considered.

★ **Military Special Operations Forces (MilSOF):** The MilSOF track seeks high-quality submissions focused on military operational medicine in support of Special Operations Forces and particularly encourages submissions from enlisted medics, corpsmen, and other frontline medical personnel whose work reflects the realities of delivering care in operational and austere environments. Submissions from U.S., allied, and partner-nation personnel highlighting lessons learned from recent operations, practical innovations, challenges encountered in the field, and experiences that can improve future SOF medical practice are especially valued. The MilSOF track recognizes the importance of shared experience and collaboration in advancing military operational medicine.

★ **Tactical Emergency Medical Services (TEMS):** The TEMS track is seeking high quality submissions about emergency medical care within the civilian tactical environment. These presentations can include but are not limited to novel methods of TEMS delivery in the civilian world, after action reports related to high profile events, new projects or developments in your TEMS unit, an overview of the TEMS unit at your department including the command structure, one or two high profile “saves,” strengths, weaknesses, and overall design and delivery. Submissions of relevant presentations accepted at other national meetings with our partners are also encouraged.

★ **Medical Support of Irregular Warfare (MSIW):** The MSIW track will focus on the operationally challenging medical support to the foundation and sub-arenas of Irregular Warfare policy and operations. Discussion blocks will include the Resistance Operating Concept and Unconventional Warfare, Counterterrorism, Counterinsurgency, Foreign Internal Defense and Partner Operations, and Stability Operations. We will also engage those limiting conditions of semi- and non-permissive environments, such as delayed evacuation, constrained logistics, and crisis standards of care.

## What are the faculty/presenter requirements?

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Presenters must be available to present at the time and date assigned by the Program Committee. If your submission is accepted for presentation, all presenting faculty/presenters are required to attend the live assembly (virtual attendance is not available). Presenters/lab faculty should refer to the [SOMA 2027 Speaker and Lab Faculty Travel Reimbursement Policy](#) to determine if they qualify for registration and travel reimbursement benefits. Lab faculty do not need to register or purchase a registration for their own lab. If faculty/presenters would like to attend a lab (that they are not teaching), there are additional fees.

## What are learning objectives, and how do I include them in my submission?

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Learning Objectives are concise statements describing what participants will be able to achieve or understand after attending your presentation. They should be specific, measurable, and actionable. When you make a submission, you will be prompted for these objectives. Within the submission platform is a written sample of learning objectives.

## How should I format and submit my CV?

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Your CV should include relevant educational background, professional experience, and previous presentations or publications.

- **Format:** Upload your CV as a PDF or Word document.
- **Length:** Ensure it is up-to-date and no longer than three (3) pages. You may use the NIH Biosketch format if you wish.
- **Submission:** Attach your CV in the designated section of the submission portal.

## What information should be included in my Bio?

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A bio provides a brief overview of your professional background and qualifications. Your bio is used by the moderator as an introduction.

- **Length:** 150–250 words.
- **Content:** Include your current rank/role, relevant achievements, and expertise related to the presentation topic. Highlight any notable awards or contributions to the field.

## What are the instructions for invited or accepted speakers?

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Invited and accepted speakers have specific guidelines to ensure a smooth and impactful presentation:

- **Presentation Slides:** Submit your slides by Friday, April 16, 2027. Please follow the provided template for the required CME disclosure slide. Otherwise, SOMA does not have a branded slide template that is required.
- **Presentation Time:** Each speaker is allotted a specified amount of time as indicated in the invitation information. Please adhere to this time limit.
- **Travel and Accommodations:** If applicable, coordinate with our logistics team for travel and accommodation arrangements. Details will be provided upon confirmation of your invitation.

- **Technical Requirements:** Inform us of any special technical requirements or needs for your presentation well in advance (e.g., video included).
- **Videos within a Presentation:** If you are including a video within your presentation deck, the video must be embedded within the slide deck. Otherwise, your video will not be playable in the presentation room.
- **Presentation Style:** Ensure your presentation is engaging and interactive, with time allocated for Q&A.

### **Can I update my Learning Objectives, CV, or Bio after submission?**

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Yes — until the submission deadline. Log into the portal to update and resubmit. For major changes after the deadline, contact Amanda Gaster at [agaster@specialoperationsmedicine.org](mailto:agaster@specialoperationsmedicine.org). Once SOMA has submitted our CME/CE application, no more changes will be allowed.

### **Will my CV and Bio be shared publicly?**

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CVs and Bios are typically used for internal review purposes and will be shared with the review committee. If accepted, your Bio may be included in the conference mobile app and/or website. If you have concerns about privacy, please let us know.

### **What if I have additional questions about the submission process or requirements?**

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For assistance with the submission process or requirements, contact Amanda Gaster at [agaster@specialoperationsmedicine.org](mailto:agaster@specialoperationsmedicine.org). We are here to assist you throughout the submission process.