



# Call for Abstracts

Deadline: January 13, 2026

*(No late submissions will be accepted)*

## General Information

1. Complete the Abstract Submission Form Online. **Submission Deadline: January 13, 2026 (no late abstracts will be accepted).**
2. All presenters must register for the Annual Meeting and assume responsibility for their own transportation, lodging and registration fees.
3. There is no limit on the number of abstracts individuals may submit. However, one of the authors must deliver the presentation.
4. Accepted abstracts will be published in the Abstract Book and made available online. Editorial changes may be made to accepted abstracts at the discretion of the Program Committee.
5. Membership in the Association is not required for presenting at IAFP 2026.

## Presentation Format

1. **Technical** — Oral presentations will be scheduled with a maximum of 15 minutes, including a brief (2–4 minutes) for audience questions. LCD projectors will be available and computers will be supplied.
2. **Poster** — Freestanding boards will be provided for presenting posters. Poster presentation surface area is 48" high by 96" wide (121.9 cm × 243.8 cm). Handouts may be used, but audiovisual equipment will not be available. All posters should include the title and author information.
3. **Marketplace** — (limited to 20 presentations) 3-minute speech/demonstration and 1-hour showcase. For a newly developed, **free resource**. Examples of resources include Book Reviews, New Laws; Regulations; Guidelines, Extension and Outreach Materials, Training Curricula, and Newly developed tools for analyzing something. For profit showcasing will not be accepted.

Note: The Program Committee reserves the right to make the final determination on which format will be used for each presentation.

## Instructions for Preparing Abstracts

1. Abstracts must report the results of original research based on accepted scientific practices (experiments, trials, surveys, analysis of existing datasets) or subject matter of an educational\* nature, as well as case studies and literature reviews, dealing with food protection including:
  - causes of foodborne illness or food spoilage (e.g., microbial, microbially-derived toxins, food-related toxicants, natural toxicants, chemical contaminants, and allergens);
  - contaminants of food (e.g., feces, insects, rodents, and adulterants);
  - control of foodborne illness, food spoilage or food contamination during pre-harvest production, and/or postharvest processing, distribution, preparation, and/or service to consumers including advances in sanitation, food processing, quality control/assurance, and/or food protection systems;
  - advances in laboratory methods including novel approaches for tracking foodborne pathogens, validation or matrix extensions, or sample preparation;
  - public health significance of foodborne disease, including outbreak investigation and risk assessment;
  - the study of pathogenesis and/or microbial ecology;
  - food fermentations and food-related probiotics;
  - Public health policy (analysis, case studies, impact);
  - Education and training effectiveness.
2. Research should not have been previously presented nor intended for presentation at another scientific meeting. Work should not appear in print prior to IAFP 2026. Abstracts may be rejected if previously presented or published.

3. Authors should not submit multiple abstracts that cover essentially the same topic or research methodology. Authors should combine into one abstract.
4. Direct evidence of plagiarism is grounds for abstract rejection.
5. Abstracts must be written in clear and correct English and must be entered into IAFP's web-based abstract management system. Abstracts will be rejected if poorly written or prepared.
6. Abstracts are limited to 2,000 character maximum (including spaces and headers). Abstracts over 2,000 characters in length will be rejected. The bulk of the words should be in the Methods and Results sections as the authors can assume IAFP Members have sufficient background and expertise to understand the submission.
7. Abstracts must follow the IAFP Policy on Commercialism. As a practical guide, company/brand/test name(s) or acronyms/abbreviations of such may be used ONCE in the abstract title and ONCE in the abstract body. Abstracts that use brand, company, or commercial microbial or contaminant test names more than the guideline will be rejected.
8. Abstracts must be approved by all authors before submission.
9. All abstract submissions shall list all authors. One author shall be designated to be the presenter of the abstract and one author (can be the same one who is presenting) shall be designated as the person to be the primary contact (the primary contact will be responsible for notifying all authors of the Program Committee's decision, as well as any logistical information received by the IAFP office).
10. Format preferred — Check the box in the system to indicate technical (oral) or poster format. The Program Committee reserves the right to make the final determination of presentation format.
11. Category — Categories are used by the Program Committee to organize the posters and technical sessions. Please check the box in the system which best describes the category for which the abstract is suitable. Categories include:

Animal and Pet Food Safety  
 Antimicrobials  
 Beverages and Acid/Acidified Foods  
 Communication, Outreach and Education\*  
 Dairy  
 Data Management and Analytics  
 Epidemiology  
 Food Chemical Hazards  
 Food Allergens  
 Food Defense  
 Food Fraud  
 Food Law and Regulation

Food Processing Technologies  
 Food Safety Systems  
 Food Toxicology  
 General Microbiology  
 Laboratory and Detection Methods  
 Low-Water Activity Foods  
 Meat, Poultry and Eggs  
 Microbial Food Spoilage  
 Modeling and Risk Assessment  
 Molecular Analytics, Genomics and Microbiome  
 Packaging

Physical Hazards and Foreign Materials  
 Plant-Based Alternative Products  
 Pre-Harvest Food Safety Produce  
 Retail and Food Service Safety  
 Sanitation and Hygiene  
 Seafood  
 Viruses and Parasites  
 Water

*\* Abstracts submitted in the Communication Outreach and Education category MUST present an improvement or innovation on a proven method in order to educate others about a food protection related topic. There should be a way to measure and substantiate the improvements and/or outcomes. If measured, the sample size should be sufficiently large (usually 100 or more) to represent the intended population.*

12. Developing Scientist and Undergraduate Student Awards Competitions — Check the box to indicate if the presenter is a student desiring to enter either of these competitions. For more information, see “Call for Entrants in the Developing Scientist Awards Competitions” and “Undergraduate Student Awards Competitions.”

Original research abstracts of 2,000 characters or less MUST be in the following format. Do **not** include reference citations in the abstract. Most wording should be in the Methods and Results sections.

**Introduction:** Provide background, statement of problem, **or** basis of the study (1 sentence). Abstracts that report research that is confirmatory of previous studies and/or lacks originality will be given low priority for acceptance.

**Purpose:** State the purpose or objectives of the study (1 sentence).

**Methods:** State the methodology used in the study (3–5 sentences). The methods should be specific enough that researchers in the same or similar field would understand the basic experimental design or approach. Research must be based on adequate and accepted scientific or educational practices. Sample sizes (both numbers and sample weight or volume), controls used, treatment levels, etc. should be explicitly stated.

**Results:** Briefly summarize results obtained in the study; do NOT use tables or figures. (2–5 sentences). NOTE: Abstracts will be rejected if specific results, **along with appropriate statistical analysis** are not provided.\*\* A statement of “results pending” or “to be discussed” is not acceptable and will be grounds for abstract rejection.

Percentages alone are not acceptable; sample sizes and sample weights or volumes should be included. Detection limits should be specified when stating that populations or levels are below these limits.

*\*\* However, exceptions will be made for literature reviews, case studies, and other types of projects which do not generate statistically analyzable results.*

**Significance:** State the significance of the findings to food protection and/or public health (1–2 sentences).

## Abstract Submission

Abstracts submitted for IAFP 2026 will be evaluated for acceptance by the Program Committee. Please be sure to follow the instructions above carefully; failure to do so may result in rejection. Information in the abstract data must not have been previously published in a copyrighted journal.

Abstracts must be received no later than January 13, 2026. **No late abstracts will be accepted.** Completed abstract and information must be submitted online using IAFP's web-based abstract management system. You will receive an email confirming receipt of your submission.

## Rejection Reasons

1. Abstract was not prepared according to the "Instructions for Preparing Abstracts." This includes abstracts that are too lengthy.
2. Abstract reports inaccurate, inappropriate or unacceptable subject matter about advancing food safety worldwide.
3. Abstract is not based on accepted scientific or educational practices and/or the quality of the research or scientific or educational approach is inadequate.
4. Potential for the approach to be **practically** used to enhance food protection is not apparent.
5. Work reported appears to be **incomplete** and/or **data and statistical validity are not presented**. Percentages alone are NOT acceptable unless sample sizes (**both numbers of samples and sample weight or volume**) are reported. Detection limits should be specified when stating that populations are below these limits. Indicating that data will only appear in the presentation without including them in the abstract is NOT acceptable.
6. Abstract was poorly written or prepared. This includes spelling and grammatical errors or improper English language usage.
7. Results have been presented or published previously by one of the authors.
8. Abstract was received after the deadline for submission.
9. Abstract contains information that is in violation of the International Association for Food Protection Policy on Commercialism. (Company or brand names used more than once in the title and once in the body of the abstract are considered in violation of the commercialism policy. Acronyms or abbreviations of company/brand names are included in this limit.)
10. Abstract subject is similar to other(s) submitted by same author. (The committee reserves the right to combine such abstracts.)
11. Abstracts that report research that is confirmatory of previous studies and/or lacks originality will be given low priority for acceptance.

## Projected Deadlines/Notification

Abstract Submission Deadline (**no late abstracts will be accepted**): January 13, 2026

Acceptance/Rejection Notification: March 27, 2026

## Contact Information

Questions regarding abstract submission can be directed to Andrea Belzer +1 515.276.3344

Email: [abelzer@foodprotection.org](mailto:abelzer@foodprotection.org)