THE UNIVERSITY of NORTH CAROLINA at CHAPEL HILL
NRP
Network for Research Professionals

Call for Posters

2026 UNC Network for Research Professionals (NRP) Research Conference Poster Competition

The UNC Network for Research Professionals invites submissions for the 2026 NRP Research Conference Poster Competition, showcasing the expertise, innovation, and impact of research professionals across UNC and UNC Health. Top-rated abstracts will be invited to present posters at the conference on May 20, 2026.

Relevant Dates
• Abstract submission deadline: Monday, April 20th at 11:59pm
• Acceptance notifications: Monday, April 27th

Submission Requirements
Poster abstracts should clearly and concisely describe the project's purpose, methods, findings, and relevance to research operations. Submissions may be individual or collaborative; at least one author must be an NRP member. Previously presented or published data are permitted. All abstracts must be submitted in English at https://app.oxfordabstracts.com/stages/81979/submitter.

Submission Components
Title: Clear, concise, and accurately reflective of the content; maximum 20 words; use sentence case.

Author(s): Full names, degrees, organization(s), and email address.

Abstract Text (250–350 words):

1. **Background / Problem Statement**
   What challenge or context within research operations does the project address? Examples are below:

   Improving IRB submissions/reducing stipulations

   Challenges in participant recruitment/retention

   Gaps in staff training or onboarding

   Barriers to data quality or monitoring

   Communication

2. **Purpose / Objectives**

State what the project aimed to accomplish. Examples below:

Reduce protocol deviation rates

Improve participant retention

Standardize regulatory binder practices

Increase participant enrollment

Enhance staff competency through new training module

3. **Methods / Approach / Intervention / Innovation**
How did you address the problem? What processes, frameworks, tools, or systems were implemented? Examples below.

New SOPs or checklists

Redesigned workflows

Technology adoption (e.g., eConsent, CTMS enhancements)

Staff training programs

Participant facing materials or engagement strategies

Cross functional working groups

4. **Findings / Results / Outcomes / Observations**
What outcomes, efficiencies, or improvements were achieved? Include quantitative or qualitative evidence where possible. If you don't have "results" in a scientific sense, then you can present other outcomes or observations such as:

Process metrics (e.g., time saved, steps reduced)

Qualitative feedback from staff or participants

Early indicators of improvement

Lessons learned

Barriers encountered

Unexpected finding

5. **Implications for Research Operations**
Why is this important? How can other teams apply or adapt your insights? What do your findings mean for research operations, participant

experience, compliance and quality, institutional efficiency, staff workload and satisfaction, or other research operations area?

6. **Next Steps**

   Describe how your work will continue, if applicable. Examples include:

   Scaling the process to other departments

   Refining tools or workflows

   Conducting additional training

   Collecting more data

   Integrating with institutional initiatives

7. **Conclusion**

   Provide a concise summary of the problem you address, what changed, and why it matters for the research community.

Learning Objectives (3–5): Describe what attendees will learn.

Keywords (3–6 terms)

Conflict of Interest Statement: Include disclosures or "no conflicts to disclose."

Optional Figure: You may upload one figure with your submission.

Formatting Guidelines
• Do not include references, tables, or equations.
• Avoid acronyms; if used, spell out on first reference.
• Ensure the abstract text, title, and figures contain no author-identifying information to allow for blinded review.

Submission Categories
Posters may focus on **any research related topic of the presenter's choice**, including but not limited to:

- Study design and methodology
- Research operations and administration
- Participant recruitment and retention
- Data management and analytics
- Regulatory or compliance innovations
- Community engagement
- Quality improvement initiatives

- Emerging tools, technologies, or best practices

Review Process

All abstracts will be evaluated by the conference planning committee through a blinded review process. Abstracts selected for a poster presentation will be further evaluated during the conference, and poster presenters may be eligible for an award.

Presenter Responsibilities

If accepted, presenters agree to register for and attend the conference. The poster session will be from 11:30 am – 12:50 pm and you will be required to be present at your poster during that time to answer questions. They also grant permission for their abstract information to be posted on the NRP website and NRP communications. Presenters are responsible for all poster printing costs and are encouraged to coordinate with their departments or units to determine whether funding is available.