**Call for Proposals – IPBC 2026**

1. Introduction

The International Perinatal Bereavement Conference (IPBC) is a major educational and networking event expected to draw more than 400 professionals and parent advocates interested in perinatal bereavement care. This 3.5-day conference includes one day of pre-conference presentations followed by 2.5 days of plenary, concurrent, and networking sessions.

The PLIDA Education and Planning Committees seek concurrent and poster presenters for the 24th Biennial International Perinatal Bereavement Conference in New Orleans, LA. Presenters are invited to share evidence-based clinical practice, research, and experiential opportunities with an interprofessional audience. Attendees will include clinicians, researchers, educators, and parent advocates (e.g., nurses, social workers, chaplains, physicians, genetic counselors, mental health providers, child life specialists, care coordinators) whose work involves women and families experiencing miscarriage, stillbirth, newborn and infant death, and babies diagnosed during the mother’s pregnancy with a life-threatening condition.

The Conference Planning Committee is seeking submissions for concurrent session presentations and posters that reflect the conference objectives:

1. Conference objectives

* Identify skills for working within an interprofessional team when providing care for bereaved families.
* Examine ways of promoting health equity through health care access and quality in the perinatal population.
* Discuss trauma related to death, unexpected outcomes, and insensitive care during childbearing.
* Explore communication skills appropriate for the perinatal period.
* Describe grief and bereavement in diverse populations.
* Provide opportunities for relationship building.
* List ways of translating research findings into clinical practice to promote a compassionate standard of care for bereaved families.
* Explain principles and practice of self-care.

Topics we are looking for to fulfill these objectives:

* Traumatic birth
* Disrespectful Care
* Perinatal Hospice
* Expressive Therapies Care
* Mental Health
* Genetic Counselor Care
* Fetal Center Care
* Communication
* Barriers to care
* Perinatal Palliative Care
* Communication
* Interdisciplinary Team care

All submissions will be assessed through an equity and inclusion framework to enhance care for all individuals and communities.

1. Review Criteria

Proposals will be reviewed by members of the Education and Conference Planning Committees using these criteria:

* Topic is innovative and relevant to perinatal bereavement care
  + Submission focuses on one or more of these areas: clinical practice, research, education, and/or advocacy
  + Time allocation and presentation content are well organized
  + Presenter has appropriate and relevant presentation experience
  + Learning objectives are measurable (i.e., using verbs such as discuss, describe, list, explain and avoid the verb “understand”)
  + Participants are likely to have significant interest in the session

1. SPEAKER REQUIREMENTS
   * **Speaker and Poster Presenters are required to register for the main conference.** Preconference registration is optional
   * Poster Presenters are expected to be at their posters and available for questions during specified times
   * Presentations will be scheduled for either May 14 or 15. We are unable to accommodate specific requests for presentation scheduling, so speaker must be available on either date
   * In gratitude there is one $100.00 registration discount **per proposal** that is accepted as a concurrent or poster presentation
   * Submissions with more than one speaker will receive only **one** discount to be shared among presenters
   * Submission is limited to a maximum of **2 speakers** per proposal. All speakers are required to register for the main conference.
   * Speakers and Poster Presenters are responsible for all travel and lodging expenses, including parking.

Topics of Interest:

Conference planners encourage proposals on the following topics:

|  |
| --- |
| Bereavement care models |
| Collaborative care models |
| Communication |
| Cultural responses to pregnancy loss and infant death |
| Current theories, models, and concepts |
| Developing a reflective practice |
| Disrespectful Care |
| Emergency Department Care |
| Ethical issues and decision-making |
| Fetal Center Care |
| Fourth-Trimester Care |
| Gaps in Perinatal Neonatal Palliative Care |
| Genetic Counselor Care |
| Genetics and genomics in perinatal care |
| Growth and transformation |
| Implementing a Perinatal Bereavement Standard of Care |
| Infant Organ Donation After Loss |
| Integration of evidence-based practices |
| Interdisciplinary Team Care |
| Leveraging Resources for Perinatal Palliative Care Development |
| Managerial, leadership, administrative roles in bereavement programs |
| Maternal Death |
| Maternal Mental Health |
| Mentoring relationships in perinatal bereavement |
| Mindfulness and meditation |
| Miscarriage care across the health care system |
| Newborn death |
| NICU Loss and Bereavement |
| Parent support activities |
| Perinatal Bereavement Mental Health |
| Perinatal Hospice |
| Perinatal palliative care |
| Quality, safety, and quality measures |
| Reproductive Care |
| Ritual, suffering, and hope |
| Secondary Trauma (care providers) |
| Self-care, caregiver grief or suffering in perinatal care, moral distress |
| Spiritual care |
| Stillbirth |
| Support of Fathers, LGBTQ+ Non-Gestational Carriers |
| Supporting Siblings |
| The grief of children, grandparents, and other family members |
| Traumatic Birth |
| Traumatic or complicated bereavement |

1. CONCURRENT SESSION SUBMISSION
   * Please complete the following forms and submit as your proposal:
     + EDUCATIONAL PLANNING TABLE
     + CURRICULUM VITAE or BIOSKETCH per speaker and planning committee member\* (See below for guidelines)
     + CONFLICT OF INTEREST FORM per speaker
     + GAP ANALYSIS FORM
   * The EDUCATIONAL PLANNING, PLANNER/FACULTY CURRICULUM VITAE or BIOSKETCH, CONFLICT OF INTEREST and GAP ANALYSIS FORMS, are required to award continuing education credits. We appreciate your assistance in maintaining records as prescribed by Rush University Medical Center’s Office of Interprofessional Continuing Education and other continuing education providers
   * Concurrent presentations must include 10 minutes for audience questions as part of this 60-minute session
   * All forms must be *typed*; handwritten documents will not be accepted
   * Submission is limited to a maximum of 2 speakers per proposal
   * Conference planners will not review incomplete, incorrect, or late submissions. **Please review instructions at the end of this document or tutorial available on our website www.plida.org**
   * Please submit completed forms via email to [rose.carlson@plida.org](mailto:rose.carlson@plida.org) by **December 1, 2024.**

*\*Note: PLIDA recognizes highest completed degrees only. Please do not use degree candidacy in your credentials [e.g., DNP(c)]. This is standard practice in most universities and colleges as a way of recognizing the work that goes into degree completion.*

1. Poster presentation submission

* Please submit a 1-page proposal for your poster presentation. Please include:
  + Title of the Poster
  + First & Last Name of Author(s)\*
  + Detailed Contact Information for each author, including email address
  + Please include the type of poster you will present (Innovative or Research), in addition to a brief description of each of the headings listed below:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Innovative Program** **Poster** includes |  | **Research Poster** includes |
| * objectives |  | * objectives |
| * background information |  | * introduction |
| * description |  | * design and methods |
| * evaluation |  | * results |
|  |  | * conclusions |

* Proposal must be *typed*; handwritten documents will not be accepted
* Conference planners will not review incomplete, incorrect, or late submissions
* Please submit proposals via email to rose.carlson@plida.org by **December 1, 2024.**

*\*Note: PLIDA recognizes highest completed degrees only. Please do not use degree candidacy in your credentials [e.g., DNP(c)]. This is standard practice in most universities and colleges as a way of recognizing the work that goes into degree completion.*

1. Notification of Decision:

Those who submit a proposal will receive email notification of the reviewers’ decision no later than **February 15, 2025.** Those selected to present a concurrent or poster session will receive an agreement and presenter information packet by **February 26, 2025.**

**Educational Planning Table Instructions**

**Concurrent Proposals**

**TITLE OF PRESENTATION/SESSION:** Title must reflect the topic or content (20 words or less). For example, the title should include key words that relate to the content.

**SECTION 1: INFORMATION FROM PLANNERS TO PRESENTERS/AUTHORS:** Must be completed by speaker

**SECTION 2: PRESENTATION INFORMATION:**

All concurrent sessions will be 60 minutes. Presenters should provide at least 10 minutes for discussion and questions.

* **MAIN POINTS/TOPICS:** include at least two and no more than three behavioral learning objectives. Behavioral objectives are measurable. Written from the perspective of the learner (e.g., “As a result of attending this presentation, the participant will be able to describe, discuss, define, or list…”). Avoid verbs such as “understand” and “know.”
* **CONTENT OUTLINE:** It must be more than a restatement of the objectives. Please thoroughly provide the content of your talk. Include specific details, not simply an overview. Reviewers will focus on this segment of your proposal to determine if your presentation will meet the expectations for a quality talk.
  + **Research** submissions should use these sub-headings as part of the CONTENT OUTLINE:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| * Objectives |  | * Conclusions |
| * Background |  | * Clinical implications |
| * Design and methods |  | * Suggestions for future research |
| * Results |  |  |

* + **Clinical Practice, Education, or Advocacy** Submissions must include these sub-headings in the CONTENT OUTLINE:

|  |
| --- |
| * Background |
| * Description of the practice, innovation, or program (e.g., unique elements) |
| * Evaluation data (if available) |

* **TIME FRAME**: include time frame for each objective. Concurrent session must not exceed 60 minutes and should provide at least 10 minutes for discussion and questions.
* **PRESENTER OR AUTHOR:** include the full name of the presenter for each objective
* **LEARNER ENGAGEMENT STRATEGIES:** Please describe if presentation is a lecture, lecture with Power Point, discussion, handouts, experiential, demonstrations, case studies, or other. MUST include presentation level: basic, intermediate, advanced.
* **NOTE WHEN WRITING OBJECTIVES:** Please use measurable verbs when writing objectives. Understand and know are not measurable verbs. Use verbs such as discuss, define, list, examine, evaluate, differentiate, evaluate, etc. If you have any questions, reach out to Rose at rose.carlson@plida.org

**SECTION 3: EVIDENCE-BASED REFERENCES:**

* Bibliography must include at least five (5) references (or 50% of the references, whichever is less) dated within the last **four years (2019)**
* **References must include**
  + **Author**
  + **Title**
  + **Place of Publication**
  + **Publisher**
  + **Date of Publication or date information was retrieved/accessed from website**
  + APA style: <http://www.apastyle.org>

**SECTION 4: CONTACT HOUR CALCULATION FOR THIS PRESENTATION/SESSION**

* **Concurrent Session: 60 minutes**

**Gap Analysis Worksheet Instructions**

**Concurrent Proposals**

**EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITY:** Include same title of presentation/session as the one used on Educational Planning Table

**Please see following example:**

**GAP ANALYSIS SAMPLE WORKSHEET**

**Instructions:** *Type directly into blank cells of the tables. Save the completed form to your computer.*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Educational Activity:** | Resolve Through Sharing Coordinator Training |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Desired State** | **Current State** | | **Identified Gap** | **Gap due to Knowledge, Skills or Practice** | **Purpose** | **Outcome Measure** |
| Participants will have the tools to create and sustain a bereavement program in their own institutions. | | Bereavement program in non-existent or needing revitalization. | Staff and management at institutions identify the need for a bereavement champion or a leader for the development and sustainment of a bereavement program. | Staff lacks the leadership skills and the tools to understand and navigate change in their unit/ department. There is a gap in the skills to coordinate a bereavement program. There is also a gap in the knowledge and skills to do educational presentations/ programs. | To provide participants with the knowledge and skills needed to create and sustain a bereavement program as well as provide bereavement education. | Participants will attend and interact with others intending to create and sustain a bereavement program.  Participants will do a coordinator pre and post assessment. During the course they will also be indicating a date that they want to offer their first educational activity at their institution. Participants receive an email supporting their plan to present 4 months prior to their chosen presentation date and a phone call 8 weeks prior. |

*Add more rows as needed by placing cursor outside of last row and clicking ‘Enter’ key.*

**Things to talk over with your speaking team**

Here are some examples of what to discuss as a speaking team prior to your presentation:

1. Embed videos [explain heavy use of Internet can result in delays and interruptions if you are playing something from the Internet]

2. Do you want discussion only at the end? If so, tell the audience that. With a relatively short time to present, if discussion happens during your presentation, it is easy to get off track, to spend time on one person's issues, while ignoring what others may want to discuss. Invite them to take notes and let them know that there will 10 minutes for discussion at end.

**TIPS FOR WRITING A CURRICULUM VITAE (CV) OR BIOSKETCH**

* **NOTE:** if you already have a CV or biosketch, you do not need to create another one; feel free to use the one you have, just make sure your contact and professional information is current/up-to-date.
* **PERSONAL INFORMATION**: include your name, credentials, current employer, position, and contact information (address, phone number and email address) at the top.
* **EDUCATION:** include the college/university, highest degree obtained, and year completed.
* **EMPLOYMENT HISTORY:** List each position you have held and a brief description of your responsibilities
* **ACHIEVEMENTS:** In this section, list publications, board positions, awards, etc.

**If you have extensive experiences, you do not need to give in-depth detail about each of them. You can simply highlight those things which are most relevant to the perinatal bereavement field and the topic you are speaking on. If you have any questions, please reach out to Rose at** [**rose.carlson@plida.org**](mailto:rose.carlson@plida.org)

*THANK YOU for your time, and all of us at PLIDA look forward to reading about the work you do to support bereaved families in your community!*