

Call for abstracts

WeRPNs 5th Annual Research Symposium

Shaping Practice and Innovation: *Practice to Incredible*

Friday Nov 20, 2026

9:00am–4:00pm

Hilton Garden Inn

Mississauga, ON

The WeRPN Research symposium, **Shaping Practice and Innovation**, is an in-person event that explores research focused on the valuable contributions of Registered Practical Nurses (RPNs).

Each year, this symposium brings together thought leaders, researchers, practitioners, educators and students to explore and discuss innovative practices that are shaping the future of our nursing profession. This event provides an invaluable opportunity to showcase research findings and outcomes from your WeRPN sponsored, partnered, or supported research.

By leveraging this knowledge mobilization and exchange event to present study updates, findings and outcomes, we will help to nurture innovation and integrate evidence into professional practice and health care. New this year, we are inviting your research team to submit abstracts for speaker presentations, interactive sessions and/or research posters. Session topics should centre around health and safety for RPNs, policy and health services, workforce planning and development, and clinical practice.

ABOUT THE SESSIONS

Speaker presentations

May include scholarly papers, research findings or outputs. Sessions consist of 20-minute presentations, followed by a 5-minute question and answer period for each speaker.

Interactive Sessions

A joint learning process between researchers and participants. The focus is knowledge exchange and driving research evidence for practice. Sessions consist of 25-minute presentations.

Poster Presentation

Posters will be mounted on a board and displayed for attendees to view. Presenters will be asked to remain with their poster at their scheduled presentation time to answer questions and discuss with symposium participants. The purpose of poster sessions is to provide attendees an opportunity to share ideas, insights, and engage with the topic of interest.



KEY PRIORITY AREAS



Health & Safety for RPNs

- Physical and Psychological Safe Work
- Work-Life Balance
- Wellness
- Joy in Work
- Teams



Policy & Health Services

- Progressive care models
- Recognition of value & impact of RPNs
- RPN professional development and growth
- Legislation and Regulations



Workforce Planning & Development

- Needs inclusive of RPNs
- RPN workforce data
- Organizational behaviour and decision support
- RPN recruitment and retention



Clinical Practice

- Nursing innovations & protocols
- Evidence for change improvements
- Client experience, outcomes, disease patterns, and holistic care

HOW TO SUBMIT AN ABSTRACT FOR CONSIDERATION

1. Abstracts are to be submitted to the [application portal on our website](#) by 11:59pm July 30, 2026.
2. The abstracts should be a maximum of 300 words (not including title and authors' information).
3. Include author(s) brief biographic sketch with your submission (80 words maximum).
4. Your abstract should highlight the main points the presenter wishes to communicate including study/ title, background/objectives, methods, results, conclusions. Highlight the relevance to and implications for RPNs.
5. Each abstract can be submitted in ONLY ONE of the following presentation preference types: Speaker presentation, Interactive session, Poster Presentation.
6. A selection committee will independently review all submissions. Applicants will be notified by August 26, 2026, that their abstract has been accepted.
7. If your abstract/submission is accepted, you will be asked to provide a headshot by September 11, 2026, to confirm your presentation spot. Presenters grant WeRPN permission to list their name, affiliations, and abstract in the conference program materials, both in print and online/electronic format.
8. All presenters are responsible for travel and accommodation expenses. Symposium, parking, and catering will be sponsored by WeRPN. For additional information, email us at research@werpn.com

We look forward to seeing you in November!

