

Join Us at Our Annual Meeting

April 8-11, 2026 | Charlotte, NC
Charlotte Convention Center



2026 WOUND HEALING SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING ▪ SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS FOR AUTHORS ▪

Electronic Submission of Abstracts Deadline: Monday, November 17, 2025 @ 11:59 pm (EDT)

**This will be the final Abstract Submission Deadline, No Extension will be provided this year.*

Maximum Character Count: 3000
Minimum Word Count: 50

All abstracts for the 2026 Annual Meeting must be submitted electronically via the official abstract submission website.

To submit an abstract, please visit <http://woundheal.org>

General Requirements & Information:

The 2026 Wound Healing Society Annual Meeting is a forum for the presentation of the best original work in the field of Wound Healing. *The work presented in abstracts must not have been previously published.*

- Session assignment is decided by the program committee.
- Authors grant license to the Wound Healing Society for publication of the abstract.
- Indicate in the body of your email your presentation preference (oral, poster, or either). The program committee will make every effort to accommodate your request.

Abstract Title:

- An abstract must have a short, specific title that clearly identifies the nature of the study.
- Abstract titles that identify presenting institution, authors or geographic area will be disqualified.
- The title must be entered with **all capital letters**, no bolding or italicizing.

Author and Affiliation Information: List the presenting author as the Primary author, then any additional authors and senior author last. Please list corresponding affiliation for each.

Abstract Body: The abstract is limited to 3000 Maximum Character Count excluding title, authors and affiliation. The text should include:

Your abstract Body should be broken into 4 sections. (Background, Methods, Results, & Conclusion)

- 1) A sentence stating the purpose of the study
 - 2) A brief description of methods
 - 3) A summary of results with sample size and statistical results as appropriate
 - 4) A statement of conclusions reached. Do not state that the “results will be discussed”
- Single case reports are acceptable, but are low priority, unless exceptionally innovative or informative
 - Abbreviations should conform to the Style Manual for Biological Journals (American Institute of Biological Sciences, 3900 Wisconsin Avenue, Washington, DC 20016)
 - Place nonstandard abbreviations in parentheses after the full word the first time it appears
 - Non-proprietary (generic) drug names are required (lower case) the first time mentioned, e.g. furosemide. Proprietary drug names should be capitalized, e.g. furosemide (Lasix)

All abstracts must be completely submitted, and all edits must be made by **Monday, November 17, 2025 @ 11:59 pm (EDT)**. Submissions and edits are automatically saved. You will not be able to make edits to your abstract after the posted deadline. **Faxes and hardcopy abstracts will not be accepted.**

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION CATEGORIES

- Acute Wounds
- Aging & Senescence
- Angiogenesis
- Bioengineering/Biomaterials
- Burn Wounds
- Chronic Wounds
- Epithelialization
- Extracellular Matrix
- Fibrosis/Scarring
- Growth Factors
- Infections & Biofilms
- Inflammation & Immunity
- Novel Therapies
- Oxygen/Hypoxia
- Regeneration
- Stem Cells

ABSTRACT SCORING RUBERIC

	High 1-3	Medium 4-6	Low 7-10
Purpose (What): Identify goal of the work or question being addressed.	Strong, clear, and thorough, yet concise, statement of objective.	Clear and somewhat thorough statement of objective.	Unclear question or objectives not stated.
Relevance/Significance (Why): Describe relevance and why investigating was necessary	Author clearly describes the knowledge gap, outlining the need for improvement.	Author describes the knowledge gap but is somewhat disorganized.	Knowledge gap not identified. Irrelevant background. Description is disorganized.
Study strategy/approach (how): Describe study design and rationale.	Specific, Clear and testable objective Discusses the methods, resources, design used to study the subject in an organized, specific and concise manner.	Discusses the methods, resources, design used to study the subject, but is somewhat disorganized, somewhat lacking in specifics or somewhat wordy.	Vague, untestable research objective. Poorly presented or lacking rationale. Disorganized and wordy.
Results/outcomes/evaluation: Describe study findings, include actual data and significance, aka results + interpretation	States results, including quantitative data (if applicable), in an organized, specific and concise manner. Provides comparisons to benchmark data and clear, precise interpretations. Alternatively, provides a thorough, organized and specific explanation of why no data or results were achieved.	States results including quantitative data (if applicable) but is somewhat disorganized, somewhat lacking in specifics or somewhat wordy, or states results only qualitatively. Provides some comparisons to benchmark data. Provides only a superficial explanation of why no data or results were achieved. Provides an interpretation of results, if any, but in somewhat disorganized/ wordy manner or fails to state what the results mean.	Provides no results, or does not explain why results were not possible, or states only “No Results”. Provides a conclusion that lacks organization, lacks specificity or is overly wordy, Or provides an evaluation that lacks organization, lacks specificity or is overly wordy.
Implications: Describe implications for field or for clinical practice. Place the findings in context of field.	Describes how the project, whether completed or not, fits within a larger field or continuing investigation in a clear and concise manner.	States how the investigation, whether completed or not, fits within a larger field or continuing investigation, but is somewhat disorganized or somewhat wordy.	Provides no conclusion.

AWARDS

Young Investigator Award

The YI Award Session will offer CE credit to attendees – ALL authors must complete a non-disclosure form upon acceptance.

Objective: The purpose of the Young Investigator Award is to underscore the importance of furthering research in the area of wound healing by recognizing and rewarding top young researchers, and by facilitating the presentation and scientific discussion of new discoveries. Top scoring individuals chosen for consideration will present their podium abstract during the Young Investigator Session.

Award amount: Awardees can receive up to \$1000 to help defray the costs of attending the WHS Annual Meeting. Each award winner will receive a \$500 award and a certificate in recognition of the high quality of his or her work. *The top four (4) presentation award recipients will receive an additional \$500 award.* In addition, the first (1st) place winner will be invited to present their winning paper at the next annual meeting of the European Tissue Repair Society.

Qualifications:

1. Must be Young Investigators. Young Investigators are considered undergraduate, graduate or professional (PhD, MD, DDS, DVM) and fellows (post-PhD, residents, specialty trainees).
2. Must be first author of the submitted abstract.
3. Must be WHS members or apply for membership upon receiving acceptance of abstract.
4. Must answer the qualification questions during the online abstract submission process for the WHS annual meeting.
5. Prior YI finalists (top 4) and projects from the last 3 years are ineligible for participation.
6. Presenter must be a trainee at time of application.

Selection criteria:

1. The Program Committee will review and rank all abstracts submitted for acceptance and presentation at the annual meeting.
2. The top 20 abstracts from Young Investigators will be referred to the WHS Awards Committee for finalist selection (8). Multiple finalists from a single laboratory may be considered provided that there is not significant overlap between projects.

Selection Process:

1. Finalists are required to present their work at the Young Investigator Session at the Annual Meeting.
2. The winners are selected by scoring the YI Session podium presentations at the WHS Annual Meeting by the WHS Awards Committee vetted judges with no conflicts of interest.

Award Presentation:

Awards will be presented at the WHS annual meeting during the WHS Awards Ceremony. Winners must be present to receive their awards.

Industrial Research & Development Poster Award

Objective: The purpose of this award is to recognize members of corporate research and development teams that are working to show mechanisms of action or efficacy for their company's products. This award is designed to provide recognition for the best product-oriented research performed by research and development scientists within the corporate world. **Award:** One award of \$500.

Qualifications:

1. Author must be from a corporate, non-academic entity.
2. Must have a WHS member on the team, or become a member on being informed about being selected for the award.
3. Abstract should detail a new idea, approach, or development of a wound healing product that has been conducted within a company or industrial research & development division.
4. Must answer the qualification questions during the online abstract submission process for the WHS annual meeting.

Selection Process:

1. Abstracts will be scored by the Program Committee and the top 10 abstracts will be selected as finalists for presentation at the annual meeting.
2. Finalists will be required to give an oral presentation during the poster session and will be judged by members of the WHS Awards Committee.
3. Posters not presented by the primary author will not be considered for award. Proxy presentations (even by coauthors) are not acceptable, except in extenuating circumstances as judged by awards committee.

Award Presentation: Awards will be presented at the WHS annual meeting during the WHS Awards Ceremony. Winner must be present to receive their award.

Travel Award for Trainees

Objective: The purpose of the Trainee Travel Award is to recognize and reward the top trainees in the field of wound healing research by facilitating their attendance at the WHS Annual Meeting.

Award amount: Awardees will receive a monetary award to help defray the costs of attending the WHS Annual Meeting. **Awards are dependent on fund availability.**

Qualifications:

1. Must be an undergraduate, graduate or professional (PhD, MD, DDS, DVM) or fellow (post-PhD, residents, specialty trainees). Must be a WHS member in good standing, or apply for membership after being informed about being selected for the award.
2. Recognizes and rewards the top trainees in the field of wound healing research by facilitating their attendance at the WHS Annual Meeting.
3. Must answer the qualification questions during the online abstract submission process for the WHS annual meeting.

Selection Process:

1. The Program Committee will review and rank all abstracts submitted for acceptance and presentation at the annual meeting.
2. The top scoring trainee abstracts will be referred to the WHS Awards Committee for selections.
3. Multiple trainees from a single laboratory may be considered provided that there is not significant overlap between projects.

Award Presentation: Awards will be presented at the WHS annual meeting during the WHS Awards Ceremony. Winners must be present to receive their awards.

Excellence in Translational Regenerative Science

Objective: The purpose of the Excellence in Translational Regenerative Science Award is to recognize scientific work that fosters the development of cell-based and other therapies in wound healing and regenerative medicine toward clinical applicability.

Award amount: \$500 each to two awardees.

Qualifications:

1. Must be a wound healing researcher/practitioner (basic scientist, physician, nurse, physical therapist, etc.) who is or has been a member of WHS for at least the prior three years.
2. Must attend and present at the annual meeting.
3. Cannot come from the corporate sector.
4. Research must be unpublished.
5. Must answer the qualification questions during the online abstract submission process for the WHS annual meeting.

Selection criteria: During the selection process the committee will consider specific criteria such as:

1. The winning research should demonstrate clear movement towards clinical applications defined, such as phase-I studies planned/ in progress.
2. Preference will be given to cell-based therapies; however, other therapies will be eligible.

Selection Process:

1. The awardee will be selected from abstracts submitted to the WHS annual meeting.
2. The applicants will indicate in abstract forms that their research be considered for the award. The applicant will need to add a section (100 words in separate box) along with abstracts indicating how their research has potential for clinical application.
3. Top 20 scoring abstracts will be chosen for consideration will be forwarded to the WHS Awards committee for evaluation and selection.

Award Presentation: Two (2) awards will be presented at the WHS annual meeting during the WHS Awards Ceremony. Winners must be present to receive their awards.

WHS Members Junior Faculty Travel Grant

Objective: The purpose of the Award is to recognize and reward junior faculty in the field of wound healing research by facilitating his/her attendance at the WHS Annual Meeting.

Award amount: Awardee will receive \$1000 to help defray the costs of attending the WHS Annual Meeting.

Qualifications:

1. The candidate must be a non-tenured junior faculty member within 10 years of receiving his/her terminal degree
2. Must submit an abstract for presentation at the annual meeting.
3. Must be a WHS member in good standing.
4. Must answer the qualification questions during the online abstract submission process for the WHS annual meeting.

Selection Process:

1. Prior to the annual meeting, a list of the top abstracts for qualified WHS Junior Faculty will be reviewed.
2. The winner is selected by the WHS Awards Committee.

Award Presentation: The award will be presented at the WHS annual meeting during the WHS Awards Ceremony. Winner must be present to receive his/her award.

SAWC Physician Research Scholar Award

Objective: The purpose of the Award is to recognize the top scoring Physician Abstract submitted to the WHS Annual Meeting and presented at the WHS/SAWC Spring Meeting.

Qualifications:

1. Must submit an abstract for presentation at the annual meeting.
2. Must be a WHS member in good standing.
3. Must answer the qualification questions during the online abstract submission process for the WHS annual meeting.

Selection Process:

3. Prior to the annual meeting, a list of the top abstracts for qualified for the award will be reviewed.
4. The winner is selected by the WHS Awards Committee.

Award Presentation: The award will be presented at the WHS annual meeting during the SAWC Awards/Poster Gala. Winner must be present to receive his/her award.

SAWC Nurse Research Scholar Award

Objective: The purpose of the Award is to recognize the top scoring Nurse Abstract submitted to the WHS Annual Meeting and presented at the WHS/SAWC Spring Meeting.

Qualifications:

4. Must submit an abstract for presentation at the annual meeting.
5. Must be a WHS member in good standing.
6. Must answer the qualification questions during the online abstract submission process for the WHS annual meeting.

Selection Process:

5. Prior to the annual meeting, a list of the top abstracts for qualified for the award will be reviewed.
6. The winner is selected by the WHS Awards Committee.

Award Presentation: The award will be presented at the WHS annual meeting during the SAWC Awards/Poster Gala. Winner must be present to receive his/her award.

SAWC Research Scholar Award

Objective: The purpose of the Award is to recognize the top scoring Research submitted to the WHS Annual Meeting and presented at the WHS/SAWC Spring Meeting.

Qualifications:

7. Must submit an abstract for presentation at the annual meeting.
8. Must be a WHS member in good standing.
9. Must answer the qualification questions during the online abstract submission process for the WHS annual meeting.

Selection Process:

7. Prior to the annual meeting, a list of the top abstracts for qualified for the award will be reviewed.
8. The winner is selected by the WHS Awards Committee.

Award Presentation: The award will be presented at the WHS annual meeting during the SAWC Awards/Poster Gala. Winner must be present to receive his/her award.