

The OHTN Conference 2027

Care, Community and Belonging: Advancing Equity in HIV Research, Policy and Practice

Save the date: February 21-23, 2027

Location and venue: Hilton Toronto Hotel in Toronto, Ontario

Abstract submission deadline: November 6, 2026

Biomedical breakthroughs have transformed the HIV landscape, yet significant challenges remain. Across Ontario and beyond, persistent inequities in access to prevention, treatment, and care, changing demographics, ongoing stigma and discrimination, and the growing complexities of aging with HIV continue to shape the epidemic. These realities call for research, policy, and practice rooted in care, strengthened by community, and guided by a shared commitment to equity and belonging.

The HIV response is strongest when it is shaped by the voices, experiences, and leadership of the communities most affected. In Ontario, HIV continues to disproportionately affect gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men, Black and Indigenous communities, people who use substances, transgender communities, women, newcomer and migrant communities. This conference showcases the research, innovation, and partnerships advancing equitable HIV prevention, treatment, care, practice and policy.

The OHTN Conference is a multidisciplinary forum that brings together researchers, clinicians, public health professionals, people living with HIV, community organizations, policy makers, educators, students, trainees, early-career investigators, and service providers from Ontario, across Canada, and around the world to exchange ideas, build partnerships, and advance equitable HIV research, policy, and practice.

Guided by the theme Care, Community and Belonging: Advancing Equity in HIV Research, Policy and Practice, the 2027 OHTN Conference will showcase innovative research, implementation science, policy, education, and community-led initiatives that strengthen HIV prevention, treatment, care, and health equity across all communities and populations. Together, we seek to dismantle the structural barriers that continue to impede progress toward the UNAIDS 95-95-95 targets and the goal of zero new infections by 2030.

We invite submissions from researchers, clinicians, community organizations, people living with HIV and other people with lived and living experience, policy leaders, educators, students, trainees, early-career investigators, and established leaders in HIV. We welcome the latest research, promising practices, innovative ideas, and community-led project outcomes that inspire collaboration, advance equity, and improve the lives of people living with and affected by HIV.

Abstract submissions should align with one or more of the conference themes and demonstrate relevance to advancing HIV prevention, treatment, care, research, policy, or practice. We welcome original research, implementation science, quality improvement initiatives, program evaluations, policy

analyses, community-led projects, and innovative practices. We particularly encourage submissions that are interdisciplinary, community-led, strength-based, and demonstrate innovation, collaboration, or measurable impact across the full continuum of discovery, implementation, evaluation, and knowledge mobilization.

Abstracts may address one or more of the following themes:

Conference Themes

1. **Innovative research, policy, practice, education or community engagement initiatives in HIV prevention, testing, and diagnosis**, including culturally responsive biomedical and behavioural prevention strategies (e.g., PrEP, PEP, doxy-PEP), HIV/STI testing (including self-testing), and community-led prevention initiatives.
2. **Clinical management and long-term care for people living with HIV**, including antiretroviral therapy, drug resistance, co-morbidities, healthy aging, and strategies to improve health outcomes and quality of life.
3. **Health equity, policy, systems transformation, and structural determinants of health** research and initiatives that address structural barriers and improve equitable access to care.
4. **Community-led, peer-driven, and culturally responsive approaches to HIV prevention and care** that strengthen engagement across the HIV care cascade, promote self-determination, and improve equitable access to services.
5. **HIV-related stigma, discrimination, and belonging**, including research, policy, practice, education, and community-led initiatives that address HIV-related stigma and its intersections with social determinants of health. Submissions may examine the impact of stigma across the HIV prevention and care continuum and highlight interventions, policies, and approaches that foster inclusion, dignity, belonging, and equitable health outcomes.
6. **Mental health, substance use, and syndemics**, including adverse childhood experiences, integrated models of care, and approaches that promote mental health, resilience and well-being.
7. **Digital health, artificial intelligence (AI), and emerging technologies** that enhance HIV prevention, care, education, research, and equitable access to services.
8. **Community-engaged projects, research, and knowledge mobilization** that translate evidence into practice, strengthen partnerships, and improve outcomes for people living with and affected by HIV.
9. **Capacity building, training and education**, including innovative approaches to training, mentorship, interprofessional education, and supporting the next generation of HIV researchers, clinicians, educators, and community leaders.

10. **Emerging science and innovation**, including HIV cure research, novel therapeutics, vaccines, and other advances that improve HIV prevention, treatment, and care.

Abstract Submission Instructions

The online abstract submission portal will open August 10th, 2026. In the meantime, we encourage prospective presenters to review the submission guidelines and begin preparing their abstracts. Details on how to submit electronically will be posted here as soon as they become available.

Deadlines

The deadline to submit an abstract for the OHTN Conference - *Care, Community and Belonging: Advancing Equity in HIV Research, Policy and Practice* - is **November 6, 2026**. The results of the peer review process will be communicated by email to the submitting author on **December 4, 2026**.

Language of abstract

Your abstract should be in English or French and will be published in the language of submission.

Abstract length and format

Abstract may be submitted in one of two formats:

- Standard written format
- Two-minute video abstract

Standard written format: The abstract title should be no more than 25 words, and the body of the abstract should not exceed 300 words in length. The research abstract should include: Background, Purpose (objective) of the research, Methods, Results, and Recommendations or next steps; and project abstract should include: Introduction, Description, Lessons Learners, Recommendations or next steps. Abstracts must contain preliminary or final empirical data, and statements such as "data will be analyzed prior to the conference" cannot be accepted.

Two-minute video: As an alternative to a written abstract, applicants may submit a video explaining their research or project. The video should not exceed 2 minutes in length and must clearly articulate purpose of the research or introduce the project, highlight the results or lessons learned, and outline recommendations or next steps.

Presentation format

Please indicate whether you are submitting an abstract for an oral, or a poster presentation. Please note that only a limited number of oral presentation slots are available.

Additional information

- Accepted abstracts will be published on the OHTN conference website and made available in a mobile app
- Presentation materials for accepted oral presentations may be posted on the OHTN website.
- Accepted posters will be displayed during the conference and posted on the OHTN website
- For more information visit: <https://www.ohtn.on.ca/conference2027/>