# MHSR 2016: Harnessing Science to Strengthen the Public Health Impact

**August 1-3, 2016**
**Bethesda, MD**

# Call for Abstracts

MHSR 2016 seeks to highlight scientific investigative efforts to improve population mental health through high-impact mental health services research, consistent with NIMH Strategic Research Priorities (see [Strategic Objective 4: Strengthen the Public Health Impact of NIMH-Supported Research](#)). We are soliciting abstracts for individual papers, symposia, posters, and technology demonstrations. Please consider making a submission, following the instructions below.

**Abstract submission deadline is May 6, 2016, at midnight Eastern Time.**

## Topics of Interest

MHSR 2016 is especially interested in original research and welcomes abstracts on a broad range of mental health services research topics, including (but not limited to) the following:

**Dissemination and Implementation**
- Increasing the fidelity, dissemination, and sustainability of research findings and evidence-based mental health care
- Innovative strategies to enhance the skills and capacity of the mental health workforce
- Studying the role of health care organizations in the diffusion of new interventions and technologies

**Integrating Mental Health into Other Health Care and Community Settings**
- Studying the impact of natural experiments focusing on system integration and care improvement
- Expanding delivery of mental health care into non-mental health specialty settings
- Improving the efficiency of managing the overall health of people with serious mental illness

**Research Methods**
- Applying data science analytic techniques to social media and other data sources in order to identify risk factors for mental disorders as potential services intervention targets
- Developing and validating novel statistical concepts to assess the impact of mHealth applications on mental health outcomes
- Applying behavioral economics in mental health to maintain the treatment gains from new service delivery models

**Learning Mental Health Care System**
- Using data to predict service needs, personalize care, and identify opportunities for earlier intervention.
- Using available data for ongoing improvement in mental health care
- Using the best evidence available for mental health care decision making
- Modeling to narrow the gap from science to service

**Early Intervention and Pre-emptive Interventions**
- Effectively delivering early and pre-emptive interventions
- Expanding the reach and intensifying the effectiveness of preventive interventions

**Strategies to Improve Functioning of Adults and Youth**
- Developing or testing strategies to improve functioning and community integration of adults and youth with mental disorders
- Assessing the value of peer-delivered services for improving functioning and quality of care for adults with severe mental illness and youth with serious emotional disturbance

**Reducing Mental Health Disparities**
- Studying underutilization of effective mental health care by vulnerable and underserved populations and testing strategies to improve use
- Assessing and analyzing trends in mental health disparities
- Identifying, validating and scaling up innovative programs currently in use that improve the mental health of underserved populations

**Optimizing Effective Treatments**
- Identifying or developing strategies to improve patient access, engagement, self-management and treatment adherence
- Optimizing models of mental health care financing for individuals with severe mental illness to support effective and efficient services in public and private health care systems

**Measuring Changes in Population Mental Health**
- Developing and validating reliable measures of treatment quality and outcomes that can be feasibly applied at the person, clinic, system and population levels
- Developing assessment platforms within health care systems in order to monitor access, quality and outcomes in diverse populations


**Technology (see also the submission format for "Technology Demonstration Sessions")**
- Developing technologies for direct use by mental health consumers designed to enhance decision-making and improve outcomes
- Designing technologies to be used directly by mental health consumers to replace, augment, or complement traditionally-delivered mental health services
- Expanding use of technologies designed to improve skills of mental health workforce or to facilitate coordination of care
- Designing technologies or methodologies to use existing information in computerized medical or administrative records to improve the treatment of individuals with mental health disorders and/or coordination of care


# Session Types


*Symposium* – Symposia are 90 minutes in length. Each symposium is composed of 2-3 presentations that address a single topic from different perspectives or discuss several components of a research project. Presenters should emphasize the potential for their research findings to improve practice. A symposium and its presenters are introduced by the symposium Chair. A Discussant provides a brief, reflective summary of all presentations at the end of the symposium. The symposium should include ample time for discussion.

*Paper Presentation* – Paper presentations are 20-25 minutes in length, inclusive of time for a question-and-answer period. We typically combine individual paper presentations into panels of 2-4 complementary presentations. Presenters should emphasize the potential for their research findings to improve practice. Please note that we will automatically consider for poster presentations those abstracts that are submitted but not accepted for paper presentations.

*Poster Presentation* – Poster sessions provide an opportunity for in-depth conversation about the research conducted and the investigators' experiences. Each poster presenter will be provided with a 4×6 poster board. Easy to read tables and graphics are encouraged.

*Technology Demonstration* – Similar to a poster session in format, the technology demonstration is intended for researchers to demonstrate new and innovative technologies designed to improve mental health service delivery, and provide an opportunity for in-depth conversation about the research conducted and the investigators' experiences.  Each presenter will be provided with a display table for the technology demonstration and a 4×6 poster board for additional materials.  The presenter should be able to give a brief, hands-on demonstration of the innovation to meeting participants.  Easy to read tables and graphics are encouraged.

## Submission Instructions

All abstracts must be submitted by email to [MHSR16@mail.nih.gov](mailto:MHSR16@mail.nih.gov). **The deadline for submission of abstracts is May 6, 2016 at 12 midnight, Eastern Time.** Guidelines for abstract preparation are provided below' please read carefully prior to submission.  E-mail confirmation will be provided after your submission is received.  First authors will be notified of acceptance on or around June 10, 2016.

Authors must indicate session type (symposium, paper presentation, poster presentation, or technology demonstration) at the time of submission. We will automatically consider for poster presentations those abstracts that are submitted but not accepted for paper presentations.

Only completed abstracts will be considered for presentation. To be considered complete, abstracts for *symposia, paper presentations*, or *poster presentations* must describe one or more scientific study that will have produced results by the time of presentation at MHSR 2016, including descriptions of methods, results (they may be preliminary results), conclusions, and implications for improving practice. Abstracts describing research that is in progress and will not have final data analyses and findings by the time of the MHSR 2016 conference will not be accepted.  Completed abstracts for *technology demonstrations* should describe the innovation to be presented, as well as details of how the demonstration will be conducted.

In order to encourage broad and timely dissemination of research results and innovative services, abstracts presented elsewhere are acceptable for submission and presentation at the MHSR 2016 Conference provided that a manuscript reporting the same or similar results has not been accepted for publication.

Abstracts for **paper presentations** and **posters** should not exceed 300 words. **Symposium** abstracts should include an overview (250 words maximum) and description of each individual presentation (not to exceed 150 words each).  **Technology demonstration** abstracts should not exceed 400 words. Submissions should include the applicable sections described below.

**Symposia, Papers, and Posters –** These abstracts must contain the following sections:

- ☐ Presenter (individual paper and poster presentations); Chair, Discussant and Panelists (symposia)
- ☐ Objective – describes the research objective
- ☐ Method – summarizes the research methods used to accomplish the research
- ☐ Findings – summarizes findings that are supported by the data
- ☐ Impact - states the conclusions drawn from results, including the potential for the research findings to improve practice
- ☐ Funding – acknowledges the primary source of funding, including government, industry, foundation or academic institutional support

**Technology Demonstrations –** These abstracts must include the following sections:

- ☐ Presenter (technology presentations);
- ☐ Description of Technology and Presentation – describes the technology and details what the demonstration will include
- ☐ Objective – describes the problem that the technology is intended to address
- ☐ Method – summarizes the development and research methods used to evaluate the technology
- ☐ Findings – summarizes findings about the technology that are supported by the data
- ☐ Impact  – states the conclusions drawn from results, including the potential for the technology to improve practice and mental health
- ☐ Equipment – will list what the presenter will bring, and any resources needed for the demonstration
- ☐ Funding – acknowledges the primary source of funding, including government, industry, foundation or academic institutional support

**Review Criteria:**  Abstracts will be ranked according to their significance to the field of mental health services research, approach, innovation, findings (symposia, paper, poster) or impact (technology demonstration), and relevance to the focus of MHSR 2016 on harnessing science to strengthen the public health Impact of mental health services research.

If you have questions, please contact Janet Sorrells, at jsorrell@mail.nih.gov.