2025 TSC International Research Conference: Engage, Accelerate, Transform

June 26 - 28, 2025
Bethesda, MD
Bethesda North Marriott

Abstract Submission Overview

The 2025 TSC International Research Conference Organizing Committee will accept abstracts through a specific Proposal Central portal. We invite you to submit an abstract for consideration for the following opportunities. Authors may request an abstract be considered only for a talk, only for a poster, or for both opportunities. If an author asks to be considered for both, the Organizing Committee will first consider the abstract for a talk and then assign it as a poster if not selected as a talk.

All Attendees

- 10-minute talk during the main meeting (June 26 - 28)
- Poster (evening of June 27)

Early-Career Researchers Only

- 10-minute talk during the Early-Career Researcher Symposium (morning of June 26)
- Vicky H. Whittemore Travel Award (up to USD 1,500)

The deadline for abstract submission is 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on Monday, March 10, 2025.

We expect to announce talk/poster and travel award decisions by the end of April, approximately two weeks before early pricing for conference registration ends.

Eligible Topics

Reports on data from all aspects of basic, clinical and translational research on TSC and related disorders are invited.

About the Vicky H. Whittemore Travel Awards

Early-career researchers[1] are eligible to receive a travel award. Abstracts of eligible authors requesting to be considered for travel awards will be reviewed by the Organizing Committee, excluding any committee members who may have a conflict of interest. The Organizing Committee will select a limited number of abstracts for receipt of travel awards to cover registration and reasonable transportation and lodging, depending on available funds.

Evaluation Process

Main Meeting Talks and Posters

The Organizing Committee anticipates accepting approximately 12 abstracts for talks during the main conference. All remaining abstracts will be considered for poster presentations unless a submitter indicates in Proposal Central that they would only like to be considered only for a talk.

Other submitted abstracts are eligible to be accepted for poster presentations as floor space allows; abstracts may also be declined if there is a lack of relevance to TSC research or if the material is unduly promotional (e.g., advertising). Research abstracts from industry, including encore abstracts, are welcome and encouraged. Decisions on whether to accept the abstract and how to group talks and posters lie solely with the Organizing Committee.

Early-Career Researcher Symposium Talks

Abstracts submitted by early-career researchers that were not selected for talks during the main meeting will be forwarded to the Early-Career Researcher Symposium Co-Chairs, who will select a limited number for talks. Decisions on whether to accept the abstract and how to group the selected talks lie solely with the Co-Chairs.

Vicky H. Whittemore Travel Awards

As specified in our R13 application to the NIH for travel support to encourage attendance by trainees and early-stage investigators, evaluation of abstracts for travel awards will be based on a combination of innovation of the project, scientific rigor of the approach, clear communication of findings in the abstract, and voluntarily self-reported membership in a traditionally underrepresented group. It is important to understand that voluntarily reported membership in an underrepresented group is only one factor considered.

New in 2025: To encourage attendance by trainees from groups underrepresented in research who have an interest in TSC but do not yet have data with which to submit an abstract, applications for travel awards may be submitted without an abstract by trainees at the undergraduate level or higher who belong to groups underrepresented in research. The application will require a brief statement of why the applicant wishes to attend the conference and how participation may impact the person's future educational or career plans. Up to five such awards may be given based on the strength of applications and available funds. Instructions will be posted on www.tscalliance.org/researchconference.

Abstract Submission Process

Abstracts must be submitted online through [Proposal Central](). If you are submitting an abstract and have not used Proposal Central previously, you will need to register and select your primary institution. If your primary institution does not appear in Proposal Central's database, please contact their customer service.

Please note that for the purpose of this abstract submission process, all references in Proposal Central to the "applicant" or "principal investigator" refer to the individual submitting the abstract ("submitter").

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[1] Graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, or junior faculty members (defined for this purpose as non-tenure-track faculty or tenure-track for less than three years).

Step 1 - Title Page

In the first page of the application, submitters will be asked to select from among the following categories the topic area relevant to TSC that best fits their abstract:

- Basic biology relevant to TSC
- Disease mechanisms and preclinical drug studies
- Clinical trials and non-interventional clinical studies
- Biomarkers or preclinical model development
- Genetics of TSC
- Burden of disease and engaging those affected to impact research
- Other

Submitters must also specify whether they wish for their abstract to be considered for one or more of the following:

- 10-minute talk during main meeting (June 26-28)
- Poster presentation during main meeting reception (evening of June 27)
    - Early-career researchers only: 10-minute talk during the Early-Career Researcher Symposium (morning of June 26)
  - Early-career researchers only: Vicky H. Whittemore Travel Award (up to USD 1,500)

Please note, if an early-career researcher's abstract is selected for a talk during the main conference, it will not be selected for the ECR Symposium as well. Applicants applying for the Vicky H. Whittemore Travel Award may voluntarily disclose demographic information.

Step 2 – Submitter & Authors

The submitter must submit the required contact information.

In Question 3 on this page, the submitter must list all authors in a text box on the Proposal Central site **in exactly the order and format the author wishes them to appear** in the printed abstract, e.g.: Pedro Pascal, Jamie Lee Curtis, and Zoë Fuchs. **The individual who intends to be the presenting author (i.e., giving the talk or presenting the poster) must be the first author listed.**

In the next text box, the submitter must list all institutions and, if more than one institution, list the initials of authors affiliated with each institution, e.g.: TSC Alliance (PP); National Tuberous Sclerosis Association (JLC, ZF). **It is very important to follow these instructions exactly, as the author names and abstracts will be copied over to the conference program materials.**

Step 3 – Enable Other Users (optional)

In this section, the submitter may allow other Proposal Central users to access the proposal. This is not required.

Step 4 – Institution & Contacts Page

Submitters must confirm their institution or change it if not correct.

Step 5 – Presenter Demographic Data (optional)

We are requesting demographic data from the individual who intends to give the talk or present the poster. This information is optional but is vital to track the TSC Alliance's progress toward improving the equity, diversity, and

inclusion of our research programs. The information will not be disclosed or disseminated to anyone outside the Conference Organizing Committee. The information will not be used to decide whether or not to accept an abstract.

Step 6 – Abstract

Abstracts may be typed directly into the text box on Proposal Central or cut and pasted into the text box. Unusual characters may not cut and paste appropriately, so please check your text for any Greek or other non-standard characters to see if they transferred correctly. One option is to spell out Greek letters, such as "alpha" instead of α. Abstracts are limited to 2,500 characters, inclusive of spaces. Do not include the list of authors' names and institutions in the abstract box.

After validating that all required information has been entered, submitters will have an opportunity to print a copy of the abstract, which Proposal Central calls a "signature page." However, no signature or PDF is required by the Steering Committee. This is simply an option for the submitter to save a local record of the submission.

The abstract is not submitted until the "Submit" button is clicked on the submit page. Prior to submission, data can be saved and resumed at any point. We recommend that you verify the status of your application has changed to Submitted. For best results, you should logout and close all Proposal Central browser windows/tabs. Log-in again and click the "Submitted" tab under "Manage Proposals." Your abstract should be listed with the status of "Submitted" along with the date and time of the submission.

Step 7 – Bio and Headshot

For this section, please attach an updated bio and headshot that we may use for our program book in the event that your abstract is selected for one of the above awards.

2025 International TSC Research Conference Organizing Committee

Conference Co-Chairs:

- **Shafali Spurling Jeste, MD,** Chief, Division of Neurology, Co-Director, Neurological Institute, Children's Hospital, Los Angeles
- **Carmen Priolo, MD, PhD**, Assistant Professor, Brigham and Women's Hospital

Organizing Committee Members:

- **Anna Jansen, MD, PhD**, Professor of Child Neurology, Antwerp University Hospital
- **Howard Weiner, MD**, Chief, Neurosurgery, Texas Children's Hospital
- **William Stanford, PhD**, Senior Scientist, Regenerative Medicine, Ottawa Hospital Research Institute
- **Uchenna Unachukwu, PhD**, Associate Research Scientist, Columbia University
- **Kimberly Raab-Graham, PhD**, Professor, Translational Research, Wake Forest University
- **Kate Richardson, MS, CGC**, Assistant Professor, Division of Medical Genetics, UTHealth Houston, McGovern Medical School
- **Rajsekar Rajaraman, MD**, Director, TSC Clinic, Assistant Professor, Pediatric Neurology, UCLA Mattel Children's Hospital

Early Career Researcher Symposium Co-Chairs

- **Nicole McDonald, PhD,** Assistant Clinical Professor, UCLA Semel Institute
- **Nicola Alesi, MD, PhD,** Instructor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School

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