

# SCTS

## Annual Meeting 2026

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15-17 March | ICC Belfast



**Abstract Submission  
Guidelines 2026**

# SCTS Annual Meeting 2026

## Abstract Submission Overview

**Thank you for your interest in the SCTS Annual Meeting 2026.**

This guide is designed to provide information about everything you need to know to submit an abstract. Please read it before proceeding to the online submission form.

The SCTS Annual Meeting 2026 is due to take place on Sunday 15th - Tuesday 17th March, at the ICC Belfast.

Co-ordinated by the SCTS Meetings Team - *led by Sunil Bhudia, SCTS Meeting Secretary and Carol Tan, SCTS Deputy Meeting Secretary* - the SCTS conference is a blend of cutting-edge science, hands-on training, wellness initiatives, and networking across the cardiothoracic community. It offers delegates a comprehensive professional and personal experience, while spotlighting major trends in lung, aortic, and cardiac surgery.

An international cohort of cardiothoracic specialists, faculty, and peers will convene to deliver a comprehensive educational program covering a wide range of topics, including Thoracic Surgery, Cardiac Surgery, Aortic and Transplant disciplines, surgical innovations, and dedicated NAHP (Nursing & Allied Health Professional) wet and dry lab sessions.

Successful abstract authors will be invited to present their abstract as an **Oral Presentation** (5 minutes presentation and 3 minutes Q&A), or a **Moderated Poster Presentation** (3 minutes presentation and 2 minutes Q&A) at the SCTS Annual Meeting 2026, and will form part of the extensive educational programme.

Alternatively, your successful abstract may be chosen to be displayed as an **E-Poster**, hosted on the virtual meeting platform, as well as on digital poster boards around the meeting venue (Please note this will not be in the main conference programme and will instead be hosted on the official conference app). Accepted **Movie abstracts** will not be presented but will be played on screens on a loop during the SCTS Annual Meeting in the main areas and the exhibition hall for the duration of the Annual Meeting.

The nominated presenting author for an abstract is required to purchase a ticket to attend the conference on the allocated presentation date and must be available to present in-person.

Registration to the conference is due to open on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2025. However, you can register your interest to be notified as soon as registration opens by [clicking here](#).



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## Abstract Submission Process

### Step by Step Guide

**Step 1:** Submit your abstract online via the Oxford Abstracts platform

**Step 2:** Abstracts are reviewed by the expert panel

**Step 3:** Your abstract is declined or accepted (either as an Oral Presentation, Moderated Poster presentation or as a digital E-poster).

**Step 4:** Download the slide and poster templates from the SCTS meeting website

**Step 5:** Prepare your poster or oral presentation

**Step 6:** Submit your final abstract (oral or poster) online via the Oxford Abstracts platform

**Step 7:** Book your place to attend the SCTS Annual Meeting 2026 (*feel free to do this earlier!*)

## Abstract Submission Website & Oxford Abstracts

Your abstract submission will be created and submitted via the conference website, using Oxford Abstracts, this is an online platform used to manage abstract submissions. It offers a streamlined process for authors to submit, edit, and track abstracts, and ensures all submissions are reviewed and managed efficiently.

Visit the SCTS Annual Meeting website to submit your abstract:

<https://app.oxfordabstracts.com/stages/79442/submitter>

## Key Dates

**Abstract Submission Opens - Monday 1st September 2025**

**Abstract Submission Deadline - Wednesday 5th November 2025**

**Successful Abstracts Announced - Friday 5th December 2025**

**Early bird booking discount ends - Friday 30th January 2026**

**Final Abstract presentation and posters submitted - Friday 27th February 2026**



# SCTS Annual Meeting 2026

## Who Can Submit an Abstract?

Anyone with an interest in cardiothoracic practice can submit an abstract to the SCTS Annual Meeting 2026, including:

- Consultant surgeons, registrars/trainees, and specialist trainees
- Nursing and allied health professionals (NAHPs) — for dedicated streams
- Medical and NAHPs students
- Early Career Researchers (ECRs)
- Medical & clinical scientists, and multidisciplinary team members

All submissions are peer-reviewed, and accepted oral abstracts and moderated poster presentations are included in scientific oral sessions or E-poster display boards. If you are happy for accepted abstracts to be published in the Journal of Cardiothoracic Surgery, please indicate this on your abstract submission by checking the relevant box.

## Evaluation Process and Acceptance

All submitted abstracts will undergo a rigorous, blinded peer-review process following the submission deadline. This process is conducted with the highest standards of integrity to ensure impartiality, fairness, and scientific merit.

In addition to the reviewers' expertise and subject knowledge, the scoring and evaluation criteria may include the following:

- Originality / Scientific Merit: Novel concepts or advances in cardiothoracic care
- Organisation & Clarity: Logical structure and readability
- Technical Quality: Rigorous methodology, robust data
- Relevance / Practicality: Clinical or operational applicability
- Overall Presentation: Conciseness and professional formatting

Each abstract is independently assessed by multiple reviewers using a standardised scoring system. Final decisions on acceptance are made by the Scientific Committee based on the aggregated scores. Accepted abstracts are then assigned to a category - Oral Presentation, Moderated Poster Presentation or E-poster Display - and grouped by scientific specialty for inclusion in the conference programme.



# SCTS Annual Meeting 2026

## Evaluation Process and Acceptance, continued...

Only those accepted will be invited to present or display at the meeting, either presenting an oral abstract, presenting a moderated poster, or displaying a digital e-poster.

You will receive a notification confirming whether your abstract has been accepted or declined by Friday 5th December 2025.

## Accepted Abstract categories

### Oral Abstracts

Oral abstract presenters will be required to deliver an engaging presentation as part of the educational programme. Each oral presentation will be allocated 5 minutes for the presentation followed by 3 minutes for Q&A.

### Moderated Posters

Moderated poster presenters will be required to deliver an engaging poster presentation as part of the educational programme. Each moderated poster presentation will be allocated 3 minutes for the presentation followed by 2 minutes for Q&A.

### E-Posters

Accepted e-posters will be accessible through the conference app and showcased on digital display boards throughout the venue.

### Movie Abstracts

Movie abstracts are short video summaries that visually present the key points of your research. Your movie submission may be accepted to be shown with subtitles as part of the programme or hosted on the conference app and showcased on digital display boards throughout the venue.



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## Instructions for Authors

### Authors

- Enter all authors that were involved in the work of the abstract.
- A maximum of 10 authors including the presenting author is permitted.
- If you wish to submit an abstract on behalf of a trials groups/investigators group, please contact [SCTS@millbrookconferences.co.uk](mailto:SCTS@millbrookconferences.co.uk) in order to submit manually. Please note that this kind of submission would only have a corresponding author who will present on behalf of the trialist.

### Title

A maximum of 50 words is permitted. A word count will automatically guide you.

### Abstract Body

Your abstract body should not exceed 250 words (excluding title and authors and tables). A word count will automatically guide you.

### Suggested structure:

1. **Objectives** - the overall purpose of the study and the research question
  2. **Methods** - the basic design of the study and the methodology used
  3. **Results** - major findings or trends found as a result of your analysis
  4. **Conclusions** - a brief summary of your interpretations and conclusions
- Insert only a single image OR a single table. Your table must not exceed 10 rows and 10 columns.
  - If you insert an image or table, you must include a legend for this.
  - **IMPORTANT** - Please do NOT include the name of an author or institution in the body of the abstract text. If the abstract text allows identification of the author and/or their institution, the abstract will be rejected.



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## Instructions for Authors

### Movies

Movies should be submitted in MP4 format with narration and subtitles. The maximum file size is 500mb and limited to 5 minutes.

### Topic:

- Select the topic that is most appropriate for your abstract.
- The reviewers retain the right to move abstracts from one topic to another, where appropriate.
- Please select your preferred presentation type from the options in the drop down box. (Note that you can only select an oral abstract/poster or movie. Some abstracts will be accepted for oral presentations and others for poster and you will be notified in due course).

## Contact Us

We hope you found all of the information you need, however if you do have any further questions or queries, please don't hesitate to reach out.

### Meeting and Abstract Queries

Millbrook Medical Conferences on behalf of SCTS

Tel: +44 (0)1455 552 559

Email: [scts@millbrookconferences.co.uk](mailto:scts@millbrookconferences.co.uk)

Unit 8, Midland Court, Central Park,

Lutterworth, Leics, LE17 4PN.

[www.millbrook-medical-conferences.co.uk](http://www.millbrook-medical-conferences.co.uk)

### SCTS & Membership

Society for Cardiothoracic Surgery

The Royal College of Surgeons

38-43 Lincoln's Inn Fields

London WC2A 3PE

Tel: +44(0)207 869 6893

[www.scts.org](http://www.scts.org)

