

Proposal Guidelines for 2026 Investigators Workshops

Deadline: Tuesday, January 13, 2026, at 12PM (noon) PT

Overview

These workshops held during the 2026 AES Annual Meeting in Denver, CO will highlight exciting developments in epilepsy research and are designed to encourage interactive discussion about challenges and opportunities for future advances. The Investigators Workshop Committee reviews proposed workshops and make final selections. The moderator will be notified of decisions in mid-March 2026.

Investigators Workshop Committee Chair (Clinical): *Stephane Auvin, MD, PhD*

Investigators Workshops Committee Chair (Basic Science): *Laura Ewell, PhD*

Faculty Guidelines

1. The Investigators Workshop Committee welcomes proposals across the full spectrum of epilepsy research, and any individual proposal may include basic, translational, and/or clinical components. Proposals are reviewed as either Basic Science or Clinical workshops depending on the primary focus of the proposal, and approximately 20 workshops may be accepted. Because many workshops include a combination of basic, translational, and/or clinical research, workshops are not labeled as either basic or clinical in the AES Annual Meeting Program.
2. **Each workshop has a moderator who must be an AES member and is responsible for serving as the main point of contact for the IW with the AES staff liaison. All faculty at the AES Annual Meeting are required to follow the [Faculty Compliance](#) policy.**
 - a. There may be a co-moderator, but one only one person will be the contact for the workshop.
 - b. *The IW Committee will give preference to proposers who did not organize a session in the previous year.*
 - c. A moderator may propose more than one workshop, but separate proposals must be submitted for each.
3. **Each workshop must have no more than five faculty members (this includes moderator and/or co-moderator. One of the faculty must be a young investigator (up to five years post-training)).**
4. AES allows individuals to give only one major talk per meeting.
 - a. **Faculty may only present in either one symposia or Investigators Workshop (if invited, faculty may also present in one special interest group).**
 - b. Faculty may only present in one special interest group.
 - c. If a speaker in your IW is also invited and chooses to talk at another IW or symposium, you will have to find a replacement speaker.
5. **Compensation:** SIG chairs and SIG speakers (including non-member speakers), do not receive complimentary registration for the Annual Meeting and do not receive travel reimbursement. **ALL SIG coordinators and speakers must register for the meeting.** 1 Non-Member per IW will have the opportunity to receive a Travel and or Complimentary 1-Day Registration that the IW Chair is responsible for completing this form for the recipient when AES staff shares this out in May 2026. Please review the [AES Faculty and Honorarium Policy](#) for additional information.
6. **Faculty Recruitment:** Faculty should be chosen for their expertise, credentials, interest, and abilities as an educator. The AES ensures the principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion are incorporated into all education planning processes and operations. **Please review the [AES Faculty Recruitment Policy](#) prior to submitting your session proposal.**

Note: The IW Committee encourages the inclusion of excellent scientists from outside the AES membership in addition to AES member speakers.

Submission Guidelines

1. When preparing proposals and actual workshops, please refer to the **Investigators Workshop format guidelines** below. The **abstract** should be informative about the proposed content and the contributions of the proposed speakers.
2. Each workshop must propose **three learning objectives** that clearly outline the goals to be accomplished during the IW. These objectives should be three takeaways that learner's need to walk away from the session with. The objectives should be outlined in the moderator's introduction and explored further in the discussion period.
3. The **rationale** should describe why the proposed workshop would be **exciting and timely** for the epilepsy research community. **Preference will be given to proposals that do not repeat topics and/or speakers from the past two years**, except when warranted by a significant new development. If the moderator(s), speakers, or content for your proposal overlap with one or more IW from the past two years, please comment on how the information to be presented will be new and different. **You may view a list of previous [Basic Science](#) and [Clinical](#) Workshops.**
4. In the **discussion section** each moderator should explain the main question or questions the discussion will center around and what thought-provoking question that the workshop aims to address. Specify the time set up for discussion in the workshop.
5. Each workshop must provide an **overview** of information that will be presented to the audience if their workshop is selected. The overview should be concise and no more than 100 words. This overview will be included on the Annual Meeting website and in the Annual Meeting app.
6. Please list any information on funding sources for the research which may be presented.

Investigators Workshop Format Guidelines

A common criticism of the IWs is that they do not function as true workshops but have become symposiums or series of polished lectures. The increasing number of participants at IW sessions and the AES meeting in general has made it difficult to maintain an informal workshop environment. To encourage a more interactive workshop-like approach, the IW Committee has established the following guidelines.

1. Objectives: *Each IW should have three which clearly define the purpose of the IW and the goals that should be accomplished during the session.* These are analogous to CME learning objectives required for the clinical forums for physician education.
2. Format/Timetable: The primary goal is to emphasize the discussion period, promoting active audience participation and interaction. *We strongly recommend ensuring that there is at least a 20-minute discussion period, part of which is specifically dedicated to addressing the objectives.* Below are the recommended format and timetable for the typical 90 minute/3 speaker IW session:
 - a. Introduction (~5 min): The moderator should explicitly outline the objectives of the IW and provide initial background information about the problems to be addressed in the session.
 - b. Speakers (~60 min total): For the typical IW session involving 3 speakers, the speakers should each be limited to 15 min talks with 5 min for individual Q&A or 20 min talks with no individual Q&A (all Q&A saved for the discussion period). **To keep talks brief, please limit presentations to a maximum of 15 slides.** Having the speakers incorporate the objectives that they address within their talks is very helpful in promoting the workshop format. *Use a timer and strictly enforce the time limits.*
 - c. Discussion period (~20 min): In addition to general Q&A, the moderator should lead an interactive discussion, *focusing on a prepared set of specific questions/unresolved issues* related to the objectives.

Audience participation and feedback, as well as additional input from the speakers, is highly encouraged.

- d. **Conclusions (~5 min – optional):** Moderator can summarize any conclusions/outcomes from the session, again referring back to the objectives.
3. **Conflict of Interest:** All speakers participating in a CME session must complete a disclosure form that will be reviewed and approved pending any conflicts of interests by the AES CME Review Committee. If a disclosure is not completed, or a conflict is found unresolvable, CME will be removed from the session if the speaker is not replaced by **October 15, 2026**. CME sessions also make available a [CME Primer](#) for all speakers to complete, prior to submitting session slides and presenting onsite at the Annual Meeting.
4. **Speaker Management System and A/V requirements:** To ensure that the workshops run efficiently onsite at the Annual Meeting, the following requirements must be followed:
 - i. All faculty participating in the IW must complete the required online faculty forms in the AES Speaker Management System.
 - ii. The moderator must collect all their speaker presentations ahead of time. It is recommended they bring them to the meeting on a USB so they can be loaded on the session laptop prior to session start time.

These guidelines, particularly the recommended timetable, are not meant to be absolute or rigid. Some IWs may benefit from a different format. However, *the IW committee strongly recommends following these guidelines as closely as possible, with the goal of promoting a workshop-like atmosphere.*