



# Call for Sessions

## A Guide on How to Submit a Session Proposal for BIO 2025

**Call for Sessions Open:** Monday, September 9, 2024

**Deadline:** Thursday, October 17, 2024

**Notification:** Mid-January 2025

*For the latest information on BIO 2025 and/or the Call for Sessions, [click here](#).*

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## **What makes a proposal successful?**

**Science and innovation** energize the core of what we do—we want voices and viewpoints that are fresh and diverse. BIO's top-notch education program covers the biotechnology industry's most relevant and timely topics—providing the know-how you need to advance your organization. In each session, top thought leaders offer insights on issues essential to the industry and provide a wealth of information of strategic relevance to your business.

Please remember that your submission is one of hundreds that will be read and reviewed by the 2025 BIO International Convention Program Committee. With such a large number of proposed sessions, those with incomplete, unclear, or inaccurate details are unlikely to be accepted. Presentation proposals must provide detailed information for reviewers to easily understand the concepts, themes, and expected deliverables of the proposal.

Key details to include:

### **WHO**

- ✓ A clear definition of the ideal audience you are targeting
- ✓ Diversity of panelists\* including:
  - ✓ Race/ethnicity
  - ✓ Sexual orientation
  - ✓ Gender and Gender identity
  - ✓ Company focus
  - ✓ Company financing
  - ✓ Company geographic location
  - ✓ Company size

### **WHAT**

- ✓ New, innovative topics
- ✓ Emerging industry issues
- ✓ Industry updates
- ✓ Educational value not available elsewhere
  - Introducing news about a terrain
  - Deep dive into implementation details
- ✓ Thought-provoking key take-aways for attendees

### **HOW**

- ✓ Enough resources to organize the session and successfully execute it
- ✓ Moderators who can lead discussion and facilitate interaction among panelists
- ✓ Specific plan for interactive engagement

\* BIO is committed to workforce diversity, equity, and inclusion, and strives to include these values in communications, membership engagement, at BIO events, and in the composition of the Board of Directors and its committees.

## Session Submission Format Guidelines

As you begin completing your submission, carefully consider the audience level and presentation format that best fits your proposal.

**Ability Level:** Choose the level of biotech industry experience and/or expertise recommended for attendees of your proposed session:

- **All:** Appropriate for all knowledge levels, including individuals who are new to the topic/subject area.
- **Intermediate:** Intended for individuals who already have a basic knowledge of the topic/subject area and are looking to further their understanding of the subject matter.
- **Advanced:** Appropriate for seasoned professionals and experts, this level assumes the audience already grasps the intermediate elements of the topic and is seeking to explore the topic/subject matter with a more in-depth perspective.

**Presentation Formats:** Most sessions are scheduled in 60-minute timeslots. Select one presentation format for your proposed session:

- **How-To Session:** Tutorials for the novice or expert in biotech with 1 – 2 speakers. Addresses a specific topic or issue in biotech, usually with new data analysis, and provides practical lessons learned. Also, group or solo exercises (e.g., writing examples, brainstorming) may be applicable here.
- **Interactive Panel:** Panelists (maximum of 5 plus one moderator) present case studies from multiple perspectives facilitated by a moderator. One moderator will facilitate formal Q&A or polling with the audience and panelists.
- **Interview:** One presenter, one moderator. The moderator questions the presenter on the session topic for approximately three-fourths of the time, after which the floor is opened up for questions to the presenter from the audience.

**2024 BIO International Convention Sample Session Proposal**

<p><b>Focus Area</b></p>	<p>Choose the 2025 primary Focus Area that best describes your proposed session. See the complete list below.</p>
<p><b>Session Title</b> Make sure your title is listed as you would like it to be published on the Convention website (if selected), including correct grammar, capitalization, and punctuation. While a catchy session title can attract the attention of Convention attendees, the proposal itself should be clear and complete in order to be favorably viewed by the Program Committee. There is a 200-character limit for the session title, but titles of fewer than 15 words are recommended.</p>	<p>BIO 2025: What makes a session proposal successful?</p>
<p><b>Format</b> Carefully consider the presentation format that best fits your proposal.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> How-To Session</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Interactive Panel</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Interview</li> </ul>
<p><b>Ability Level</b> Choose the level of biotech industry experience and/or expertise recommended for attendees of your proposed session</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> All</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Intermediate</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Advanced</li> </ul>
<p><b>Abstract</b> Provide a concise description that will explain the focus and significance of your proposed session. There is a 300-word limit for abstracts.</p>	<p>Refrain from writing session proposals that are sales pitches of your region, country or company, ensure that your proposal is complete before submitting, and be mindful of your target audience and the key take-aways that you want your attendees to learn during the session. <b>Sessions should not propose multiple speakers from the same organization, but instead should ensure a diversity of organizations are represented.</b> Reviewing past Convention programs and session lists at <a href="https://convention.bio.org/">https://convention.bio.org/</a> can be helpful for understanding previous topics of interest and themes that have been previously selected by the Program Committee for BIO’s audience. And remember, BIO is continually seeking cutting</p>

	edge topics that have not been presented in prior years or at other industry conferences.
<b>Methodology</b> How do you intend to accomplish the goals of your session?	Present an explanation of how you will conduct the presentation and what each speaker will address. Provide enough detail for the Program Committee to clearly visualize and evaluate your proposed session.
<b>Elevator Pitch</b> What is the essence of your session?	If you only had one sentence to convince someone to attend your session, what would it be?
<b>What are 3 top takeaways from your session?</b>	Please list three takeaways you want the audience to walk away with after attending the session.
<b>Participant Details</b>	
<b>Submitting Company</b>	Provide the name of the organization you are submitting this proposal on behalf of (if any)
<b>Participant Information</b>	
You are allowed a maximum number of five speakers and one moderator per panel. <i><u>Program Committee will give preference to comprehensive proposals that list confirmed speakers.</u></i>	
<b>Role</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Moderator <input type="checkbox"/> Speaker
<b>Name</b>	John Smith
<b>Title</b>	CEO
<b>Company</b>	John Smith, Inc.
<b>Email</b>	One unique email per speaker is required. Speakers will not be contacted by BIO regarding the session without the organizer's knowledge.
<b>Gender</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Male/Man <input type="checkbox"/> Female/Woman <input type="checkbox"/> Transgender Male/Man <input type="checkbox"/> Transgender Female/Woman <input type="checkbox"/> Non-binary <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to answer <input type="checkbox"/> Not listed
<b>Biography</b>	Provide a brief biography of each proposed speaker. Include information on previous speaking engagements.
<b>Invitation Status</b> *Mandatory*	<input type="checkbox"/> Confirmed <input type="checkbox"/> Invited <input type="checkbox"/> Have Not Contacted

## **BIO 2025 Focus Areas and Priority Topics**

Submit provocative and cutting-edge topics that matter to the global biotech audience in one of the focus areas below. We provide illustrative priority topics within each focus area, but you are not limited to those topics for your session proposal. You will be allowed to select “other” if your proposal does not align within the listed topics. BIO welcomes all innovative ideas!

### **Focus Areas:**

#### **AI and Digital Health**

#### **Biomanufacturing**

#### **Brain Health**

#### **Business Development and Finance**

#### **Cell and Gene Therapy and Genome Editing**

#### **Diagnostics and Personalized Medicine**

#### **Diversity, Equity and Inclusion**

#### **Emerging Opportunities in Global Markets**

#### **Environmental Sustainability**

#### **Infectious Disease and Vaccines**

#### **Intellectual Property**

#### **Legal Landscape and Commercialization**

#### **Next Generation Biotherapeutics**

#### **Oncology**

#### **Orphan and Rare Diseases**

#### **Patient Advocacy**

#### **Regulatory Innovation**

#### **Translational Research**

#### **Value, Patient Access and Reimbursement**

### **Focus Areas with Topics:**

#### **AI and Digital Health**

- AI for Drug Discovery
- Clinical Trial Support Tools
- Patient-Reported Outcomes Data and Real-World Evidence Applications
- Machine Learning and AI-Driven Modeling
- Algorithm and Data Bias Transparency
- Prescription Digital Therapeutics Apps
- Digital Health Technology Tools
- Cybersecurity for Biotechs

#### **Biomanufacturing**

- Advanced/Innovative Manufacturing Technologies
- Scale-Up Opportunities and Constraints
- Partnering Benefits and Challenges

#### **Brain Health**

- Latest Scientific Advances
- Novel Drug Development and Biomarkers
- AI, Predictive Modeling, and Big Data Applications
- Substance Use Disorder

- New Approaches to Neurodegeneration
- Examples of Collaborations and Novel Partnerships
- Targeted Therapeutic Strategies

#### **Business Development and Finance**

- Trends in Licensing Deals
- M&A Valuations and Deal Volume Trends
- Working with Venture Philanthropy and Non-Dilutive Financing
- Cross-Border Investor Recruitment
- Shifting Incubator Business Models
- Venture-Stage Capital
- Alternative Financing Sources
- Innovative Partnership Structures
- Capital Productivity and Pipeline Management
- Market Conditions and Data Analysis

#### **Cell and Gene Therapy and Genome Editing**

- Scientific Advances
- Regulatory and Policy Changes and Challenges
- New Applications
- Overcoming Manufacturing Bottlenecks

- Public Engagement and Education
- Payment Models
- Global Access

### **Diagnostics and Personalized Medicine**

- Futurist Challenges / Precision Medicine Pipeline Outlook (in 2030)
- Direct to Consumer Genetic Testing (Health Risk Reports)
- Data and Patient Empowerment / Data Privacy Concerns
- Drug Target Identification (Biomarker Discovery and Validation)
- Data Science / Biopharma Partnerships with Data Providers
- Public, Private and Academic Research Programs (NIH All of Us Research Program, Genome Centers, Biobanks, Databanks)
- Human Genome Project / Genome Wide Association Studies
- Innovative Capital Formation Ideas or Trends (i.e., Diagnostics Companies vs. Tech Companies)
- Companion Diagnostics for Targeted Therapies
- Scientific and Technological Advances in Sequencing

### **Diversity, Equity and Inclusion**

- Health Equity
- Workforce Development
- Women's Health
- Underrepresented Leadership
- Corporate Governance
- Funding Underrepresented Companies

### **Emerging Opportunities in Global Markets**

- Policies for and Challenges to Fostering Biotech Innovation Globally
- Value and Access Opportunities and Challenges in Global Markets
- Reducing Trade Barriers

### **Environmental Sustainability**

- Biobased Manufacturing
- Biosecurity
- Climate Impact

- Supply Chain Improvements

### **Infectious Disease and Vaccines**

- Global Health and Infectious Diseases
- Antimicrobial Resistance
- Clinical Integration of Infectious Disease Diagnostics
- Data Analytics/AI in Infectious Disease R&D
- Influenza
- Nagoya Protocol and Access and Benefits Sharing for Infectious Disease Pathogens
- Next Generation Antibodies and Antivirals
- Novel Vaccine Delivery Systems
- Pandemic Preparedness
- Unique partnerships for infectious diseases
- Platforms/innovative manufacturing for Infectious Diseases
- Real-World Evidence for Vaccines and Infectious Disease Therapeutics
- General Prevention and Public Health
- Combatting Misinformation and Disinformation

### **Intellectual Property**

- 101 Updates
- Biologic Patent Litigation
- Case Law Updates
- International IP Framework Comparisons
- Drug Pricing Update

### **Legal Landscape and Commercialization**

- Medicaid Drug Rebate Program (MDRP) Rule
- 340B Program Expansion
- Prescription Drug Affordability Boards (PDABs)
- Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) Implementation and Challenges

### **Next Generation Biotherapeutics**

- Advances in Drug Creation
- RNA-Based Therapies
- Metabolic Drugs
- Immunology
- Lifespan/Longevity
- New Modalities
- Disease Indications Not Covered Elsewhere

### **Oncology**

- Latest Scientific Advances
- Regulatory and Policy changes
- Partnerships & Deal-Making
- CAR-T Developments

### **Orphan and Rare Disease**

- Collaborative Research Model Case Studies
- Reimbursement Models
- Business Development Trends
- Clinical Trial Design
- Natural History
- Next-Generation Advocacy: Patients and Families Driving Innovation

### **Patient Advocacy**

- Addressing Policy Barriers to Patient Access
- What Good Looks Like: Patient Advocacy and Innovator Collaborations
- Mission Driven Investors: Venture Patient Advocacy

### **Regulatory Innovation**

- PDUFA VII
- Patient-Focused Drug Development
- Real-World Evidence
- Decentralized Clinical Trials
- Cost of Regulatory-Based Policy Incentives
- Innovative Clinical Trial Designs
- Clinical Trial Diversity

### **Translational Research**

- New Models for Collaboration Between Academia and Industry
- Best Practices for Public-Private Partnerships
- De-Risking Academic Science

### **Value, Patient Access and Reimbursement**

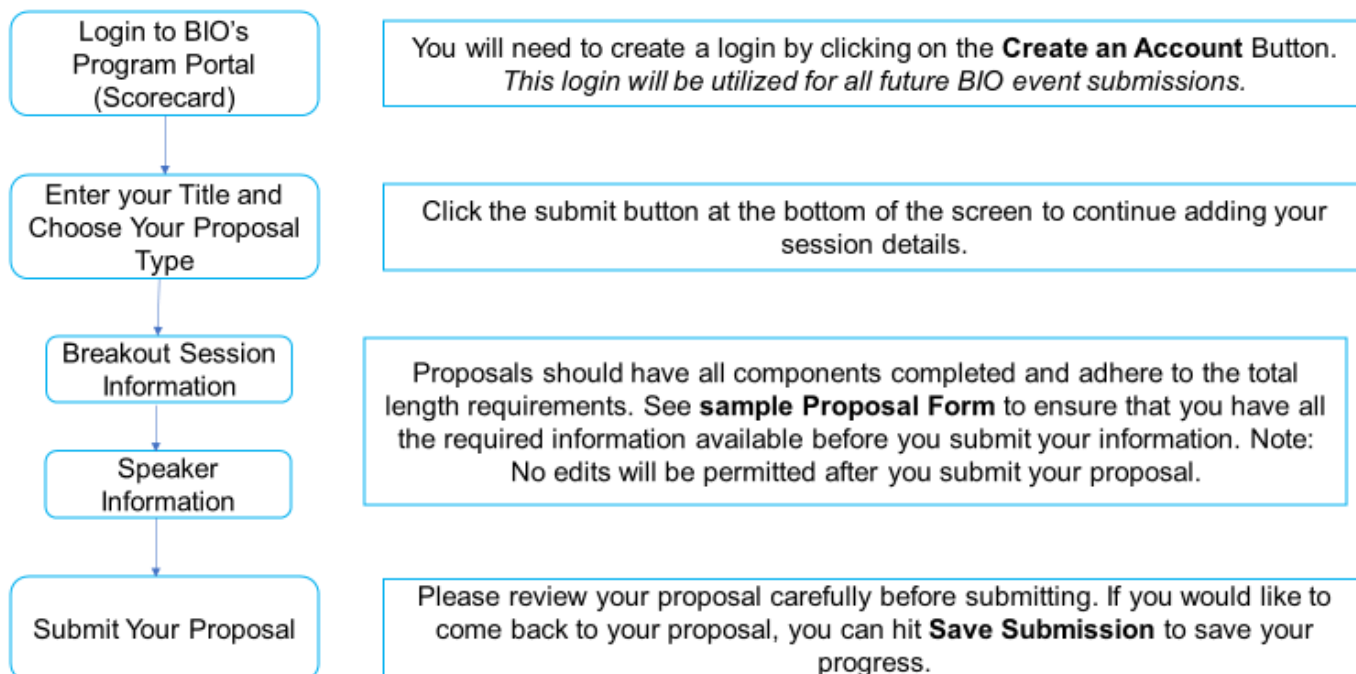
- Policy Issues/Priorities
- Innovative Payment Models
- Value-Based Payments
- Role of Value Assessment Frameworks



## How to Submit Your Proposal

You will need to submit **all proposals** through the [BIO Program Portal](#).

Step-by-step instructions detailing how to navigate the Call for Sessions online submission site are listed below.



**NOTE:** Once you have finished previewing your submission, **remember to select the "Submit" button to fully submit your proposal for consideration.**

For entering each speaker's data, you should use the "Credentials" field to note advanced degrees such as PhD or MD, but if not applicable, the portal will list "Not Applicable" after the speaker's name on the "Edit Speaker Information Task" summary page.

Speakers' photos are requested by the portal but not required to be added for the submission of your proposal.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Q. Does BIO charge a fee to submit a session proposal?**

A. BIO does not charge a fee for proposing a session.

### **Q. Does BIO provide an honorarium for speaking?**

A. BIO does not provide honoraria or reimburse for travel or housing expenses.

### **Q. Will I receive a complimentary registration to attend the BIO Convention?**

Speakers, Moderators and Session Organizers receive complimentary General Access Registration to attend. There will be an opportunity to upgrade to Premier Access for an additional fee. BIO staff will provide registration instructions to the Session Organizers after your proposal has been accepted.

### **Q. Once I have made a submission, can it be modified?**

A. No, once you submit your session proposal entirely no additional edits can be made. If you are not prepared to submit the session you may save it as a 'Draft' and return to make edits and submit before the portal closes.

### **Q. Will any changes be made to my proposal?**

A. If your session is accepted, you will have a call in January with a member of BIO staff to review the 2025 Program Committee's feedback. BIO reserves the right to make recommendations and requirements for revisions of content and/or speakers.

### **Q. When will I be notified if my session has been accepted?**

A. You will be notified via email in mid-January. Contact [program@bio.org](mailto:program@bio.org) if you have not received notification by January 31, 2025.

### **Q. Can the deadline to submit be extended?**

A. The deadline cannot be extended. This is the beginning of an extensive review process to allow the newest and best data to be professionally peer reviewed without rushing the process. BIO needs a firm deadline so that the Program Committee has sufficient time to review each submission thoroughly.

**Q. When would my session be scheduled at the International Convention?**

A. Sessions may be scheduled by BIO for a time period that could occur at any time from Monday, June 16, 2025, through Thursday, June 19, 2025. The session organizer and speakers must be available to present on any of those days.

**Q: When will I find out the date and time of my session?**

A: If accepted, you can expect to know the date/time of your session by early March 2025.

**Q. Is there a limit to the number of speakers per session?**

A. Yes, there is a maximum of five speakers plus one moderator per session (six people total), depending on the session format selected.

**Q. Can more than one speaker from the same organization participate on a panel?**

A. No, BIO only allows one panel member per organization per panel.

**Q. Should I contact the proposed speaker in advance of submitting the name?**

A. We recommend inviting speakers prior to submitting your session proposal. However, please let them know the panel is still pending and you will be notified of its status by mid-January. The invitation status of a speaker does play an important role in the selection process of sessions with sessions that have invited or confirmed speaker's participation ranking more highly than those proposals that only speculate about speakers' willingness to participate.

**Q: Will BIO contact any of my submitted speakers?**

A: BIO will contact your submitted speakers after you've been notified of the session's acceptance status and BIO has provided additional information around next steps.

**Q. What are my responsibilities as session organizer?**

A: The session organizer is responsible for being the main contact for the session. You will submit the proposal, attend the session organizer call in January, let BIO know of any changes, invite and confirm speakers, ensure your speakers are registered, schedule a speaker prep call in advance of the session and attend the session in person. If you are no longer able to complete these responsibilities, please notify [program@bio.org](mailto:program@bio.org) immediately to share the name and contact details for the new session organizer who will be responsible.