

21st Annual International Conference of the National Hispanic Science Network

This year, 2021, marks the occasion of the 21st Annual International Conference of the National Hispanic Science Network (NHSN). NHSN draws together NIH-oriented researchers, primarily of the western hemisphere (including USA), many with self-identified Hispanic ethnicity and all with an interest and career commitment to improving the health of Hispanic heritage populations in the US and elsewhere.

The 21st Annual International Conference is being hosted by Michigan State University's College of Human Medicine at the Secchia Center in Grand Rapids, with a start time of 12 Noon on Wednesday, the 22nd of September. The conference will end at 1:30 PM on Friday, the 24th of September.

Our NHSN program committee believes that this year's conference theme, with focus on COVID-19, alcohol and other drug use, and related mental health topics, might interest many of us in Michigan. Session titles include the following, with presentations by experts in the field, including NIH intramural researchers, as well as a selection of MSU and other Michigan-based faculty members:

- Intramural Scientists at NIH: Leaders in Substance Related Research
- Taking a Closer Look at Covid-19 and Its Toll on the Nervous System
- Emerging Topics: Short- and Long-Term Implications of Covid-19 on Substance Use
- Substance Use Research with Diverse Populations: Leadership and Policy Implications
- Transitioning from a Postdoc to Faculty: Grant Writing and Setting Yourself Up for Success

Poster presentation sessions will be held from 4:30-5:30 on Wednesday the 22nd and Thursday the 23rd. (There is a plan for online presentations if COVID issues disrupt travel to Grand Rapids.)

To encourage participation of Michigan's local area students, faculty, and professionals, the program committee relaxed the poster abstract submission deadline. There was a standard April 2021 deadline for poster-presenting attendees who wished to receive a travel allowance to defray costs of flights and hotel in Grand Rapids.

An alternative poster abstract submission deadline is available to Michigan's conference registrants. These submitted abstracts, if possible, should be sent to the NHSN before Saturday July 31, but a grace period will be created for presenting authors who send an email to our NIDA R25 program email address by that date:

r25.researchproject@gmail.com

with this subject line: "NHSN late poster submission request,"
and with the name of the presenting author and the poster presentation title in the body of the email.

A link to the preliminary program is here:

<https://www.the-nhsn.org/Conference/docs/NHSN%202021%20Program%20for%20Reg.pdf>

A link to the abstract submission form and instructions is here:

<https://www.the-nhsn.org/Conference/docs/2021%20NHSN%20Abstract%20Submission%20Form%20Michigan%20Residents.pdf>

There is no abstract submission fee, and at this stage, do not worry about the registration fees. We are negotiating for reduced registration fees for Michigan area program participants in order to encourage attendance and future NHSN membership applications from local area students, faculty and professionals.

Please feel free to share this information with your colleagues, research trainees, or students who might be interested in presenting their work in poster format for the NHSN conference. It is an opportunity to showcase new research, results from preliminary studies, and descriptions of planned research, or to describe a new program you have been developing, or other initiatives that should be of interest to the NIH-oriented members of the NHSN.