



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS: Sessions and Roundtables

**Deadline:
October 31**

The APHL Annual Meeting Planning Committee invites the APHL membership and standing committees to submit proposals for plenary, breakout and roundtable sessions at the 2015 APHL Annual Meeting, which hosts attendees from state and local public health laboratories and state environmental and agricultural laboratories.

Plenary and Breakout Sessions are scheduled within the body of the meeting program. 5 plenary and 15–20 90-minute breakout sessions are being planned over 4 days. Plenary and breakout sessions generally have a moderator and 2–3 speakers. They may be panel discussions or other interactive/informational sessions generally addressing a specific issue, program or core public health function. 3–4 breakout sessions are scheduled per time slot.

Each plenary or breakout session should be targeted to the major participant groups of APHL (state PHL, local PHL and environmental/agricultural labs). The topic of the session and the information provided should be valid for each group. To accomplish this, a speaker representing each group in each session is recommended (1 state PHL, 1 local PHL and 1 EL and/or 1 AL). In addition we are challenging participants to include more evidence-based science in the sessions.

Roundtables are small, informal 45-minute guided discussions concerning hot topics on laboratory issues. The topics are usually broad to allow individual issues to be raised, and the leaders facilitate discussion and contribute suggestions or structure only as needed. The leaders rarely make lengthy presentations. Each roundtable will occupy a room with several banquet rounds and flip charts. No other audiovisual materials are provided. Up to 4 roundtables are scheduled each day on May 20 and 21.

Roundtables, since they are designed as discussion sessions, should focus on one topic with an emphasis on encouraging interaction between attendees and the speaker.

Tentatively there will be 5 plenary sessions with 1 per time slot, 5 breakout time slots with 3–4 sessions per time slot and 2 roundtable time slots with 4 sessions per time slot. This allows up to 4–5 plenary sessions, 15–20 breakout sessions and 8 roundtables. Separate tracks of Public Health Laboratory (PHL) or Environmental Laboratory (EL)/Agricultural Laboratory (AL) sessions will not be done.

Proposal Selection Process

This year the Annual Meeting Planning Committee has decided to expand the way sessions are selected. Plenary and breakout sessions will be determined by choosing from proposals submitted by the **general membership and standing committees**.

This call for proposals is being sent to the entire membership and all standing committees of APHL. If a committee submits more than one proposal, please prioritize them as there are limited time slots.

Proposal Submission

The submission process has been simplified this year and is now done online. **Submit your proposal at <https://aphl.confex.com/aphl/2015am/cfp.cgi>.** (Follow the directions on the website.)

Proposals must be received by Friday, October 31, 2014. Notification of the outcome will be made no later than January 23, 2015.

Direct all questions to Terry Reamer at 240.485.2776 or terry.reamer@aphl.org.

Suggested topics include (but are limited to):

Agriculture sector public health programs	Infectious diseases
Biomonitoring	Informatics
Certification and accreditation	Knowledge management
Climate change	Laboratory efficiencies
Communication and outreach about labs	Laboratory research topics
Culture independent diagnostics	Laboratory systems and standards
Emergency preparedness and response	LSIP follow-up
Emerging contaminants	Method development
Emerging infections	Molecular testing
Emerging technology	Nanotechnology
Enteric diseases	Newborn screening and genetics
Environmental health	One health
Food safety	Partnerships
Global health	Public health policy
Healthcare reform	Quality improvement in labs
Hot topics	Workforce development
	Other