KANSAS CITY UNIVERSITY

RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

Essential Information About KCU's 2026 Research Symposium

The Research Symposium is one of Kansas City University's premier collaborative academic events, bringing together each college to showcase KCU's innovative research and scientific discoveries. The symposium also hosts distinguished physicians and scientists both from within and outside the KCU community.

agenda

DAY 1: WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8, 2026

12 - 1 PM	WELCOME AND OPENING KEYNOTE SPEAKER
1:15 - 3:45 PM	KCU STUDENT VIRTUAL OR IN-PERSON PODIUM PRESENTATIONS
4 - 6 PM	POSTER SESSION #1

DAY 2: THURSDAY, APRIL 9, 2026

9 AM - 12 PM	KCU SUMMER STUDENT RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP PRESENTATIONS
12 - 1 PM	STUDENT RESEARCH PANEL
1:15 - 3:45 PM	KCU STUDENT VIRTUAL OR IN-PERSON PODIUM PRESENTATIONS
4 - 6 PM	POSTER SESSION #2

DAY 3: FRIDAY, APRIL 10, 2026

7 AM - 1 PM	GME/KCU RESIDENTS PRESENTATIONS
1 - 2 PM	AWARDS
2 - 3 PM	CLOSING AND SPEAKER

registration

Please register for the 2026 Research Symposium **here**.

All KCU students, residents, faculty and staff who wish to attend symposium activities **must** register.

Non-KCU affiliated external participants from academic, research, and clinical institutions are strongly encouraged to register to attend and/or submit an abstract.

TIMELINE AND DEADLINES

- **Abstract Submission Deadline:** Monday, February 9, 2026 at 11:59pm CST.
- **Abstract Review:** Tuesday, February 10 – Thursday, February 26, 2026
- **Abstract Acceptance Notification:** Friday, February 27, 2026
- **Posters Due:** Thursday, March 19, 2026
- **Research Symposium:** Wednesday, April 8 – Friday, April 10, 2026

The KCU Research Symposium will not accept late abstracts.

abstract submissions: guidelines

ABSTRACT GUIDELINES

- Abstracts should be submitted **here**.
- Abstracts are limited to 300 words.
- Student research that has not been reviewed either departmentally or by mentor/IRB will not be accepted.
- All abstracts submitted must make an original contribution and must be previously unpublished work; however, abstracts presenting findings or novel analyses that are not included in a full publication may be submitted.
- Encore abstracts (presenting the same research findings at more than one conference) are permitted.
- Only original material should be submitted.
- All abstracts must be scientific in nature and without inclusion of commercial messages or inappropriate references to specific products, services, commercial concerns, or political messages.
- All abstracts must have only one presenting author; multiple presenters for the same abstract are not allowed. To ensure that an abstract is not submitted more than once, the presenting author should be the one to submit the abstract.
- To ensure equitable opportunities for participation, each student is permitted to serve as first author on only one submission (poster or oral presentation). Students may be included as co-authors on multiple other submissions provided they are not the first author.
- Presentations (podium and poster) will take place in one location only: Kansas City or Joplin; no double location presentations are allowed.
- Submission of an abstract does not guarantee acceptance for presentation.

***Special notes for KCU GME residents and fellows:**

- Residents/fellows are only considered for virtual poster presentations.
- If residents/fellows have questions or need assistance with submission of your abstract, please contact **gme@kansascity.edu.**

abstract submissions: structure

ABSTRACT STRUCTURE

- The title should be in lowercase letters with only the first word capitalized.
  Ex. Temperature dependence of ionizing radiation effects on dry preparations of bacterial enzymes.
- Author and co-authors institutions must be identified.
- The body of the abstract should be single-spaced. Tables, graphs, and structural formulae may not be included, although simple mathematical formulas are acceptable.
- Abstracts will not be accepted if they contain inappropriate or offensive language.
- Please include 3-5 keywords.
- Dr. Danielle Masursky in the KCU Library Writing Center is available for assistance in writing and formatting abstracts.

PRESENTATION FORMAT

- When submitting an abstract, the author will select whether they would like their abstract to be considered for an oral presentation or a poster presentation.
- If an abstract is submitted for oral presentation consideration and not accepted, it will be automatically evaluated for a poster presentation (in-person or virtual).
- If an abstract is submitted for only poster presentation consideration, it will be evaluated for in-person or virtual poster presentation.

poster presentations

Two poster presentation opportunities will be offered: in-person or virtual. Individuals selected for an in-person poster presentation will be assigned to a live session on their home campus during the Research Symposium. All other accepted posters will be featured in a virtual symposium gallery.

Abstracts will be selected by committee for in-person poster presentation based on the following criteria:

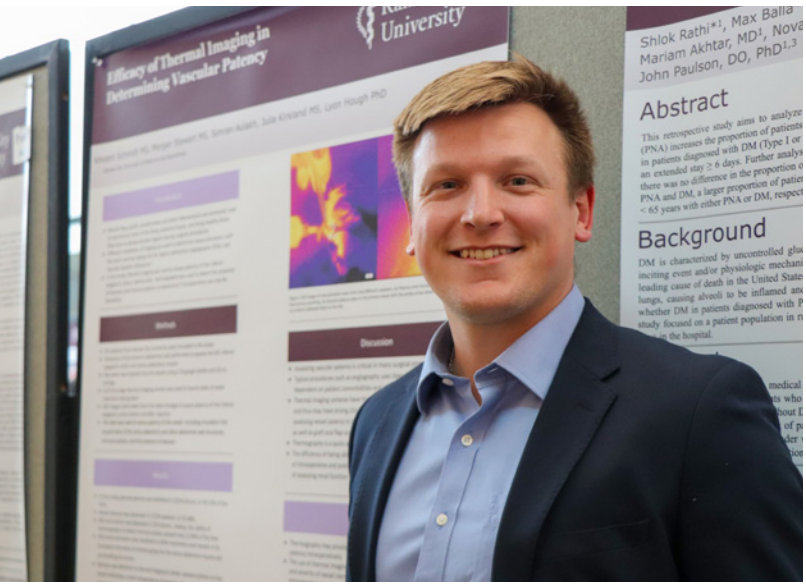
1. Research adds to the existing scientific knowledge base.
2. Research is relevant to current scientific environment.
3. Research is understandable to a general audience, not just subject matter experts.
4. Research is critically and thoughtfully written, with a clear narrative and minimal grammatical errors.

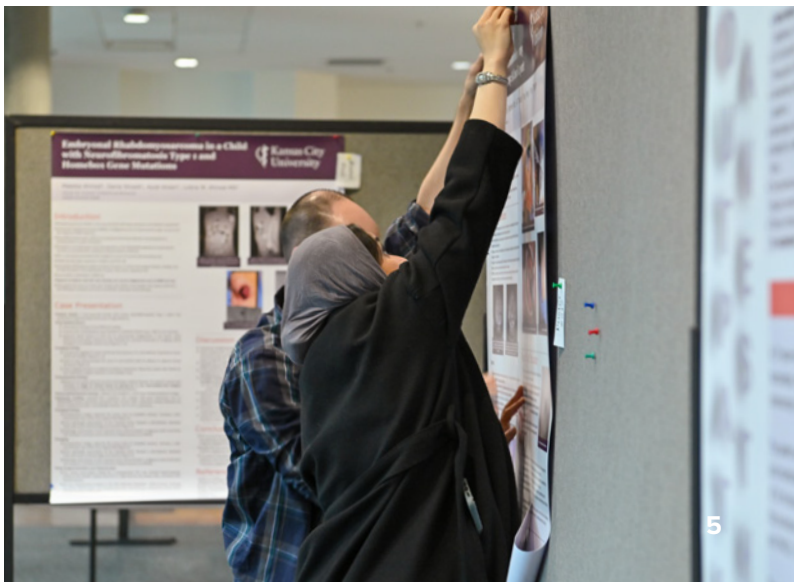
Individuals selected for virtual poster presentation will have the option to include a recorded presentation but will not be judged or eligible for awards.

RESIDENTS

One poster presentation opportunity will be offered for residents: virtual. Residents selected for a virtual poster presentation will be assigned to a virtual presentation block during the Research Symposium on Friday, April 10, 2026.

Once individuals are notified of abstract acceptance and type of poster presentation, poster submission instructions will be provided. Please refer to the detailed timeline on page 2 for more details.





poster guidelines

POSTER FORMATTING

- Posters should include a 3-4 sentence plain language abstract written at no higher than an 8th grade reading level. This should appear at the top of the poster (see template).
- Resident posters should contain specific labeled sections based on the type of submission.
  - Original research and quality improvement posters must include an introduction, materials and methods, results, discussion and conclusion.
  - Case report posters must include an introduction, case, discussion and conclusion.
- All posters must be in **portrait orientation**.
- Poster dimensions are **36" W x 48" H**.
- KCU participants please use this **poster template**.
- Posters must be uploaded as a high-resolution PDF file to Box by the deadline listed in the abstract submission email.
- Poster files must be named using the convention: **abstractnumber_lastname_campus.pdf**
- Individuals chosen for in-person presentations should be prepared to explain their research in no more than 60 seconds to audience members with various scientific backgrounds.

POSTER PRINTING

- Posters for in-person presentation that are submitted by the deadline will be printed by KCU.
- Once you upload your poster to the dedicated BOX folder provided, you may not re-submit a different version (even prior to deadline). Please be sure that you submit the FINAL poster that you want printed. There is no proofing process available.
- Individuals who miss the poster submission deadline will be responsible for printing their own posters.

POSTER PICK-UP AND SET-UP

An email will be sent out with specific instructions on when and where posters and abstract numbers can be picked up. Individuals will need to pick up their poster and abstract number prior to the beginning of the Symposium. If an individual is not able to pick up their poster by the deadline, they will be responsible for arranging pick up.

To pick up posters on the Kansas City campus, please see Gwen Dodd.

To pick up posters on the Joplin campus, please see Tammi Ford.

On the day of, you will be provided with push pins, an assigned spot, and a sticker with the abstract number and the name of the presenting author as provided during registration in order to display for judging purposes. Each board holds two posters on each side.

oral presentations

- Presentations will be either virtual (OMS-III and OMS-IV only) or in-person.
- The allotted time for live presentations is 10 minutes total: 8 minutes for the presentation and 2 minutes for questions. You must finish on time or you will be asked to leave for the next speaker.
- Speakers will be provided with a portal to upload their presentations ahead of time.
- Speakers are encouraged to include a plain-language summary of their findings at the conclusion of their presentation.
- Presentations must be in a Microsoft PowerPoint format.
- All KCU affiliates must use the approved PowerPoint templates found **here**.

special program considerations

SUMMER STUDENT RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP (SSRF) PRESENTATIONS

- All SSRF recipients are required to present at the symposium. Presentations are live (no posters required) and will take place Thursday, April 9, from 9 am to 12 pm.
- All SSRF recipients are expected to attend the closing and award lunch to receive their achievement certificate

GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION (GME) RESIDENT PRESENTATIONS

All KCU GME Consortium residents' presentations will be virtual.

4TH YEAR PSYD STUDENTS

Presentation of dissertation ideas must include a plan for proposed analysis.

judging

Success of the Research Symposium depends largely on the feedback of volunteer judges. Faculty are requested to participate in this evaluation of our student body. Participation as a judge counts as service to the university for promotion purposes.

Prior to the symposium, judges will be needed to review all submitted abstracts for acceptance and to assign each to either an oral or poster presentation (in-person or digital). Judges may be assigned abstracts not specifically aligned with their own areas of work, but a judging rubric will be provided.

During the symposium, multiple judging shifts will be available across days, times, and campuses. Available volunteer shifts can be viewed and claimed using SignUpGenius.

A Qualtrics link will be provided to each judge to record evaluations. Please have access to a smartphone or request an ipad if you do not have access to or the capability to use a smartphone. The link is reusable and must be used for each poster/presentation you are assigned.

JUDGING GUIDANCE

- Judges should preview assigned posters in BOX prior to attending the poster session to expedite judging. A link to the posters will be sent to you ahead of time.
- Evaluate all assigned presentations each session. Be mindful of interaction time with each presenter to ensure equity.
- Judges evaluating in-person poster presentations should identify themselves as a judge, request a short (60 second or less) description of the poster, and aim to ask 1-2 brief questions.
- Remain objective; do not evaluate presentations directly connected to your work.
- Do not score a presentation if you did not attend or view it.

judging rubric

Please provide a numeric score (0-20) for each of the following questions. A total of 100 points per project is possible.

OVERALL WORK

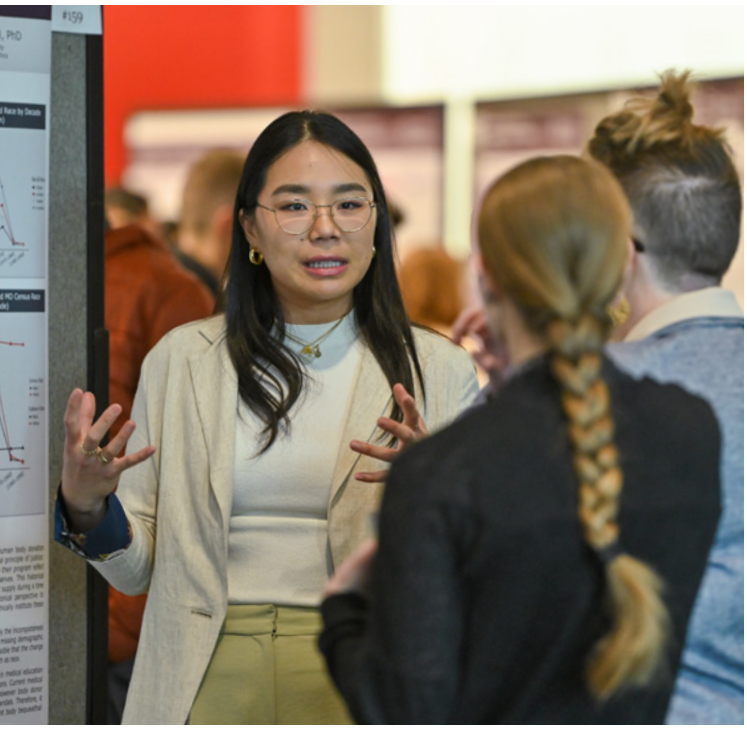
1. Novelty: Potential for advancement of science/moving the field forward; adds to the existing scientific knowledge base; identifies and fills a gap in research
2. Scientific rigor: application of the scientific methods to ensure unbiased design, methods, analysis, interpretation, and reporting of results

PHYSICAL PRESENTATION (SLIDES/POSTER)

3. Materials are visually well-designed, with a clear layout, readable text, and high-quality graphics that effectively communicate the research

STUDENT PRESENTER

4. Able to summarize their research process (i.e., the elevator pitch) with clear communication strategies
5. Answers questions and engages in discussion above and beyond what is written



awards & recognition

The KCU Research Symposium Committee will recognize top presentations during the event. KCU students are eligible for awards if they are the presenting author for either oral or in-person poster presentations.

In addition, a call for applications for the Yale U. Castlio, DO, Prize for Research will be announced. An email will go out to faculty to nominate students for this award.

KCU GME RESIDENTS AND FELLOWS

KCU GME Consortium Residents and Fellows who have a poster accepted and who present a virtual poster presentation at the symposium will qualify for the Resident/Fellow Research Award. Winners will receive up to $500. Additional information and instructions on how to apply for the award will be sent to residents/fellows with their presentation acceptance email from KCU GME. If residents/fellows have questions or need assistance with submission of your abstract, please contact **gme@kansascity.edu**.

frequently asked questions (faqs)

CAN I ATTEND WITHOUT SUBMITTING AN ABSTRACT?

Yes. We encourage you to register even if you do not plan on submitting an abstract to help us anticipate attendance numbers.

CAN I SUBMIT AN ABSTRACT WITHOUT REGISTERING?

No. You must register to submit an abstract.

WHO NEEDS TO REGISTER FOR THE RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM?

Anyone planning to attend or participate in Research Symposium activities, including KCU students, residents, faculty and staff as well as non-KCU affiliated external participants from academic, research and clinical institutions. You must register if you plan to attend any portion of the event, including virtual presentations.

IS THE RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM REQUIRED?

No, unless required by your program or college. If you have questions about whether attendance is required, please contact your program chair or the dean of your college.

WHO DO I CONTACT IF I HAVE QUESTIONS?

KCU GME Residents and Fellows, please contact **gme@kansascity.edu**

Summer Student Research Fellows, please contact Dr. Talley at **jtalley@kansascity.edu**

Poster Submissions, please contact Gwen Dodd at **gdodd@kansascity.edu**

For general questions, please contact **research-symposia@kansascity.edu**

CAN I GIVE AN ORAL PRESENTATION AND PARTICIPATE IN A POSTER SESSION?

You may not be the presenting author on more than one presentation. This includes being the presenting author for both an oral and a poster presentation. However, you may be a co-author (non-presenting author) on more than one presentation.

HOW DO I SIGN-UP TO BE A JUDGE DURING THE RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM?

A SignUpGenius form will be sent out with various times and opportunities to judge presentations.

questions?

RESEARCH-SYMPOSIA@KANSASCITY.EDU

Kansas City University