



The 2026 SASP Symposium, under the theme *Taking Physiotherapy into the Future*, invites clinicians, educators, researchers, managers and policymakers to engage in courageous, solution-focused conversations that will shape the next decade of physiotherapy in South Africa.

Call for Abstracts

The Scientific Committee of the South African Society of Physiotherapy Symposium 2026 welcomes abstract submissions that challenge assumptions, showcase innovation, share evidence, and reflect honestly on the realities of practice across public and private sectors in the following categories:

- Research: Evidence informing practice and policy
- Innovation: Transforming practice and service delivery
- Reflection: Courageous conversations in Physiotherapy

Category one: Research

Submissions may include:

- Clinical research across the lifespan
- Health systems and policy research (including NHI implications)
- Access, equity, and rehabilitation service delivery
- Digital health and AI evaluation studies
- Education and workforce preparedness research

- Implementation science and outcomes research

Research abstracts should outline the background, objectives, methods, results, conclusion and clinical implications.

Category two: Innovation

Submissions may include:

- AI integration and digital solutions in clinical care
- Service redesign in public or private settings
- Novel private practice or reimbursement models
- Community-based and low-resource innovations
- Interdisciplinary models of care
- Curriculum transformation and workforce initiatives
- Hybrid public-private models
- NHI readiness innovations
- Revenue diversification strategies in private practice

Innovation abstracts should describe the problem addressed, the innovation implemented, and demonstrated or anticipated impact.

Category three: Reflection

Submissions may include:

- Clinical lessons learned (including mistakes and growth)
- Ethical challenges in modern physiotherapy
- Public and private practice realities
- Workforce sustainability and burnout
- Leadership and advocacy journeys
- Reflections on implementing system-level reform

We particularly encourage submissions that share honest professional reflections, including failures, ethical dilemmas, leadership challenges, and lessons learned in complex systems.

The following submission types are welcomed within the above three categories: case reports; original research; randomised clinical trials; systematic or narrative reviews; innovation reports; reflective analyses; and study protocols.

We invite abstract submissions that explore how physiotherapy can lead change with integrity, innovation, and impact.

Call for Abstracts Deadline: 10 April 2026

Guidelines to the Content of the Abstract

Format: Microsoft Word, 11 font Arial, double spacing, no tables or figures.

Title of abstract: *[maximum 20 words]*

Names and titles of presenter and co-authors /researchers *[Contact details of authors to include full name and organization/institution for main author + E-mail and preferred contact telephone number for presenting author]*

Research abstract: *maximum 250 words. Refer to South African Journal of Physiotherapy Submission guidelines:*

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Innovation abstract: *maximum 250 words to cover Background (context and purpose); Interest/focus of presentation; Description of work done (links to similar work); Implications; Value to fellow practitioners; Conclusion*

Reflection abstract: *maximum 250 words to cover Background (context; purpose - including reference to the use of a reflective framework); Description of work done (What was done? Why did you do it?); Results; Lessons learnt (and what did you feel?); Significance; Conclusions.*

Please submit your abstract by using this link or scanning the QR code:

<https://forms.gle/DNCR99rUDzNK9YuYA>



Email the Chair of the Scientific Committee with any queries: Helena.vanaswegen@wits.ac.za

Thank you for your submission!