

# HEALTH COMMUNICATION

NCA Division Monthly Newsletter

## Celebrating and Amplifying Our Work: A Message from Division Chair Dr. Charee M. Thompson



It is an honor to serve as chair of our Health Communication Division, a community defined by its innovative research, impactful teaching, and meaningful service. My vision is to celebrate and amplify the incredible work of our members, continue building on the strong leadership that characterizes our division, and foster increased member engagement. Practically, I am committed to collaboratively finalizing the revision of our bylaws. I'm looking forward to this upcoming year and hope you reach out with any questions and ideas!

### In This Issue

*A Note from the Division Chair*  
**PAGE 1**

*Meet the Executive Committee*  
**PAGE 1**

*NCA 2025 Convention Info*  
**PAGE 2**

*ICA Pre-Conference Call*  
**PAGE 3**

*D.C. Health Conference Info*  
**PAGE 3**

*Feb. 28 Virtual Learning Opportunity*  
**PAGE 3**

*2024 Business Meeting Minutes*  
**PAGE 3**

## Meet the Division's Executive Committee

We elected several new officers at our 2024 business meeting, held during the NCA conference in New Orleans. Your Health Communication Division Executive Committee consists of:

- Chair: Dr. Charee M. Thompson, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
- Vice Chair: Dr. Iccha Basnyat, George Mason University
- Vice Chair-Elect: Dr. Shamshad Khan, University of Texas at San Antonio
- Immediate Past Chair: Dr. Jill Yamasaki, University of Houston
- Secretary: Dr. Heather L. Voorhees, University of Montana
- Graduate Student Representative: Liesl Broadbridge, Sc.M., Rutgers University
- Graduate Student Representative: Susan Wood, M.A., M.P.H., Indiana University of Pennsylvania
- DEI Committee Chair: Dr. Sean Upshaw, University of Texas at Austin
- DEI Committee Vice Chair: Dr. Jamie Robb, Florida Atlantic University
- DEI Committee Member: Dr. Wenxue Zou, Coastal Carolina University
- Legislative Assembly Representative: Dr. Luna Wu, Texas Tech



## Preparing for NCA 2025

It's not too early to think about the 2025 National Communication Association conference, scheduled for Nov. 20-23 in Denver, Colo.! **The submission portal will open Feb. 13.** All submitters will be expected to also serve as reviewers. See the links on the right for official convention information.

The Health Division welcomes submissions for three types of projects:

**Research in Progress/Collaboration Spaces:** Each presenter will share a project that is fully conceptualized but still in the early stages of analysis, interpretation, critique, or data collection. The goal is to engage in discussions that support the development of exceptional research.

**Traditional Sessions and Data Blitz:** Competitive individual papers will be accepted for presentation in traditional sessions or Data Blitz sessions.

- **Traditional Sessions:** You will present your *research* for 10-12 minutes, followed by 15 minutes for Q&A with the audience and all panelists.
- **Data Blitz:** You will present your *results* for 3-4 minutes, focusing on data, in an effort to solicit feedback. Half of the session will be devoted to presentations, and the other half to conversations with the presenters.

**Panel Discussions:** We welcome two types of panel proposals:

- Panels tied to key area(s) of focus in health communication and/or to the conference theme
- **Spotlight Panels** that: a) engage with health communication as it relates to issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion; b) combine scholars from multiple university structures to discuss teaching health communication; c) showcase ways health is performed in everyday lives, locally and globally; or d) engage with topics that bridge issues of health across multiple NCA units.

[Convention Website](#)

[Convention Central](#)

[Calls for Submissions](#)

NOT PLANNING TO  
SUBMIT WORK BUT  
STILL WANT TO HELP?

SIGN UP TO BE A  
REVIEWER STARTING  
FEB. 13!

## Consider the Upcoming ICA Pre-Conference: Disability Research as Disruptive Research

The International Communication Association's annual conference, held June 10-15 in Boulder, Colo., features a pre-conference dedicated to "Disability Research as Disruptive Research." The pre-conference will be held June 10 in person and online, and invites postgraduate students and early career researchers across disability, communication, and media research to present their in-progress work in a collaborative environment. The organizers are interested in a diversity of projects, including research ideas in their early stages of development (including theses and dissertations), open and critical questions to the field, and the sharing of research results.

The deadline to submit your work for potential inclusion is **Feb. 15**.

[Click here for more details.](#)

## Plan to Attend the D.C. Health Communication Conference: "Community-Engaged Health Communication"

The 8th biennial D.C. Health Communication Conference, hosted by George Mason University at the Hyatt Regency Dulles, is scheduled for May 1-3. This year's theme is Community-Engaged Health Communication, and will showcase competitive papers, posters, and panel sessions covering not only issues related to the conference theme but also broadly defined concerns across a breadth of topics relevant to health communication research and practice. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Michael Hecht, whose speech, "A journey through community-based research and practice: How a communication scholar learned to love public health," will focus on his extensive work in school and community-based prevention, culture and health, health message design and narrative health messages.

Conference registration is now open and the program has been published. You are encouraged to book your hotel early, as there is a limited number of rooms available at the discounted conference rate. Visit [dchc.gmu.edu](http://dchc.gmu.edu) for details.

## Review the 2024 Health Comm. Business Meeting Minutes

Click below to review the minutes from the 2024 NCA Health Communication Division Business Meeting (New Orleans, LA). We will vote to approve these minutes at the 2025 Business Meeting (Denver, CO).

[CLICK HERE](#)

Join the division's next  
FREE Virtual Learning  
Opportunity:  
**"What Advice Would I  
Give My Younger Self at  
the Start of My Career?"**

**Friday, Feb. 28  
5-5:45 pm CST**

[Use this link to join](#)

Meeting ID: 221 882 386 531  
Passcode: UZ3Yh7aZ

Have something to share in the next newsletter?

E-mail your announcement to Heather Voorhees (Division Secretary) at [heather.voorhees@umt.edu](mailto:heather.voorhees@umt.edu).