

MAY 2025

HEALTH COMMUNICATION

NCA Division Newsletter

You're award-worthy! Nominate by May 15



The nomination deadline for Interest Group Awards and NCA National Awards is May 15. You still have time to submit! This is your opportunity to honor outstanding contributions across the field of health communication. As NCA's largest division, we want to celebrate our diverse membership of scholars at all levels who employ a range of methodologies to extend theory and effect meaningful change. Self-nominations are welcomed and encouraged!

This year, we will recognize excellence in six categories: Outstanding Health Communication Scholar Award, Early Career Award, Distinguished Book Award, Distinguished Article/Chapter Award, Dale E. Brashers Distinguished Mentor Award, and Outstanding Contributions to Promoting Equity and Inclusion Award. To submit a nomination and find the criteria for each award, [click here](#).

Please contact me (jjamasaki@uh.edu) with any questions regarding the nomination process. Award winners will be announced in September and recognized at our division meeting at the annual convention in November. If you've been unsure or hesitant, consider this your call to action and submit those nominations now. Our elected award committee members are ready, waiting, and looking forward to a robust showing of worthy nominees!

-Dr. Jill Yamasaki, Division Immediate Past Chair

Thank you, NCA submission reviewers (all 240 of you)

Thank you to everyone who completed their requested NCA Health Communication paper and panel reviews. Our division is the largest in NCA, and we can't create high-quality conference programming without reviewers' help! This year, we received 426 submissions, and 240 reviewers looked over abstracts, full papers, and panel proposals. Now, the difficult work of creating our 2025 schedule begins. NCA plans to send out decision notifications to primary presenters on July 15th. On the same day, the convention registration will be open, and the preliminary convention program will be available online. We hope to see you in Denver, Nov. 20-23.

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Division business updates

The NCA Health Communication Executive Committee and the Awards Committee have been discussing bylaw revisions pertaining to our division awards, including clarifying the makeup of the Awards Committee and providing more structure to the nomination process. We plan to prepare a ballot over the summer, with the goal of bringing the revisions to a membership vote at the start of the fall. Stay tuned!

Beginning in the fall, we will regularly spotlight members' work through our communication channels. Over the summer, the Executive Committee will randomly reach out to division members and invite them to share some information about the work they're conducting, what they enjoy about their current role, and who they are as individuals. Our aim is to shine a light on the amazing folks within our division. We would like to build a collection of features to share throughout the year. Thank you in advance for your willingness to participate if selected.

Health Communication special edition call: Mental health

Guest editors Drs. Marco C. Yzer and Jason T. Siegel invite you to submit original manuscripts to a special issue of *Health Communication*, titled "Mental Health Mass Communication: Advancements in Optimizing and Safeguarding Mental Health Messaging" to expand the conceptual and empirical foundation of message-based mental health promotion. They encourage submissions from a range of sub-areas, as scholars studying health campaigns, psychopathology researchers, and those who primarily investigate mass communication, for example, have much to learn from one another. At minimum, authors should meaningfully engage mass and health communication scholarship as a foundational or integral part of their conceptual framework.

Manuscripts should be received no later than Dec.1, 2025, be formatted consistent with [Health Communication's author instructions](#) for original articles, and submitted via *Health Communication's* submission portal. [Click here](#) for the full call and for submission details.

Cancer Control special edition call: Digital health

The journal *Cancer Control* is publishing a special issue, titled, "Transforming Cancer Prevention and Survivorship with Digital Health Interventions and Communication." This Special Collection aims to showcase recent research on technology use, mHealth/digital health, and health communication for cancer prevention and survivorship, with a goal to examine the entire spectrum of health interventions, from assessment (understanding the behaviors), intervention development, and dissemination, to evaluating the effects of an intervention. Papers are due by October 14, 2025. For more information, [click here](#).

It's a wrap on DCHC 2025

The 2025 D.C. Health Communication Conference, hosted by George Mason University, wrapped up May 3 after 2.5 days of panels, research presentations, workshops and networking. This year, 220 attendees celebrated the theme of Community-Engaged Health Communication, including 88 faculty members, nine professional practitioners, 102 graduate-level students and 21 undergraduates! Thirty-four states and four other countries were represented (Canada, China, India and Singapore).



Public Interest Comms. Summer Institute June 3-5

The 2025 Public Interest Communications Summer Institute will be June 3-5 at Georgia State University in downtown Atlanta. Organized by the Public Interest Communications Educators Network, this is an annual gathering of faculty, researchers, graduate students and professionals from around the country.

The theme of this year's institute is "Rekindling Progress in a Polarized World." The institute consists of a day and a half of workshops and small panel discussions. This year, it will also include several health-related sessions, such as a Q&A with Abigail Tumpey, who ran communications for the CDC in the second year of the pandemic. Tumpey will also facilitate a workshop on public health crisis communication.

[Click here for more information.](#) Registration is \$120, or \$50 for graduate students. [Click here to register.](#)

Questions about the job market? Attend a May 30 VLO

The next Virtual Learning Opportunity (VLO) will be a conversation around navigating the academic job market. Mid-career scholars and Health Communication Division leaders will offer tips, insights and personal perspectives. This online chat is open to EVERYONE, and is free to attend. No RSVP is needed, but if you have questions, contact Dr. Sean Upshaw at sean.upshaw@austin.utexas.edu.

- **What:** Virtual Learning Opportunity
- **When:** Friday, May 30, 5 p.m. Central Time
- **Where:** Microsoft Teams. [Use this link](#) or the Teams Meeting ID: 234 510 051 084 9 and passcode: gm7yC9AB

Have something to share in the next newsletter?

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