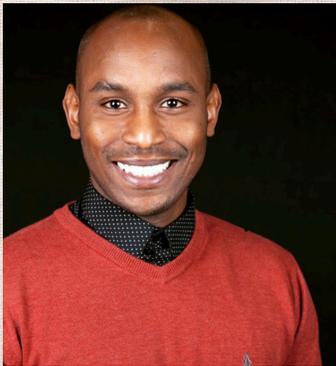


OCTOBER 2025

HEALTH COMMUNICATION

NCA Division Newsletter

Supporting DEI is important – and easy



Welcome to the October 2025 Newsletter for the Health Communication Division of the National Communication Association (NCA).

We are excited to connect in person at the 2025 NCA Convention in Denver, Colorado. As we prepare for the conference, we encourage all division members to actively seek out and support Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) initiatives and scholarship throughout the convention. This can

be as simple as attending a panel that engages with these foundational principles or amplifying the work of colleagues committed to this mission.

At a time when DEI efforts are being systematically challenged across many areas of society, the Health Communication Division remains steadfast in its commitment to inclusivity. This year, the DEI Committee, with the support of the division and NCA, worked to secure supplemental travel grants for graduate students with financial need. While these grants are modest, they reflect our commitment to implementing DEI principles and promoting broader participation in our scholarly community.

Lastly, we strongly encourage members to attend and support the opening session, “Lifting as We Climb: Extending the PhD Pipeline and Elevating the Next Generation of Communication Scholars,” chaired by former NCA President Ronald Jackson. This session, led by Dr. Jackson and other distinguished scholars, will explore the transformative power of mentoring within the communication discipline, highlighting a national PhD pipeline initiative designed to recruit and support emerging scholars. Together, we can leverage our positions as mentors and educators to help cultivate the next generation of communication scholars dedicated to advancing the work of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Health Communication scholarship.

-Dr. Jaime Robb, Vice-Chair of DEI

Notice: Health Comm bylaw ballots coming your way soon

Be on the lookout! NCA will be emailing registered members of the division a ballot link to vote on bylaws changes. Over the past year, the Executive Committee and an ad-hoc committee reviewed our bylaws for division awards; suggested changes are available [here](#). Now, it's time to vote on the proposed updates. The email ballot will come from the sender “National Communication Association”, with the address of noreply@gemailserver.com. Thank you in advance for voting on revisions to our awards processes, an integral component of our division business.

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Looking for an opportunity to publish? Check out these special journal calls

PEC Innovation

This special issue of *Patient Education and Counseling (PEC) Innovation* is titled “Advancing Patient-Centered Communication Training and Assessment.” It aims to highlight innovative educational strategies, programs, and research that improve how health professionals are trained to communicate effectively, engage diverse populations, and implement evidence-based practices across the learning continuum—from undergraduate and graduate education to continuing professional development.

We invite submissions that explore innovation in teaching methods, curriculum design, assessment strategies, learning technologies, implementation of communication training, interprofessional education, and educational interventions addressing diversity, equity, and inclusion. Submissions can be focused on learners across the health professions including, but not limited, to medicine, nursing, physician assistant, pharmacy, dentistry, public health, and allied health disciplines. Submission deadline is **Jan. 31, 2026**. [Click here to submit and learn more.](#)

Journal of Health Communication

The *Journal of Health Communication* is seeking submissions for a special edition titled, “From Competencies to Capacity: Preparing the Next Generation of Health Communicators to Address Persistent and Emerging Challenges.”

This special issue will consolidate and critically examine emerging scholarship and practices on the competencies, pedagogies, and institutional strategies that can strengthen the global and local health communication workforce. We particularly welcome solution-oriented contributions that bridge theory and practice, foreground equity and cultural relevance, and propose scalable approaches to training and capacity building across diverse contexts. Deadline is **Jan. 15, 2026**. [Click here for full details and to submit.](#)

Health Communication

Health Communication will dedicate a special issue, 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. Manuscripts will be considered for review only if they directly address mental health messaging, that is, messages intentionally designed to improve mental health in a specific audience. Submission date is **Dec. 1, 2025**. [Click here for details.](#)





Submit a chapter to the *Handbook of Health Communication and Social Justice*

The co-editors of the forthcoming *Routledge Handbook of Health Communication and Social Justice* invite scholars to contribute a chapter to this collection. The book is under contract, and it will be included in Larry Frey and Patricia Parker's *Routledge Social Justice Communication Activism* series.

Overall, the chapters in the *Handbook* will collectively examine and problematize how scholarship, methodologies, and praxis in health, health communication, and social justice can be imagined as being both closely intertwined and contested.

The first complete draft would not be due until April 15, 2026. Each chapter will be about 5,000 words (including references).

To express interest in contributing to this collection, please contact Dr. Vinita Agarwal at vxagarwal@salisbury.edu and Dr. Christina S. Beck at beck@ohio.edu with a brief description (one or two paragraphs) of your possible chapter.

Health Comm Member Profile

In an effort to support networking and make our large division feel more welcoming, we will be featuring randomly-selected Health Communication Division members in these monthly newsletters. Watch your email: you might be chosen next!

Dr. Kathryn Lambrecht

Assistant Professor, Arizona State University



Degree: Ph.D. from University of Nevada, Reno

Research Areas: health related to extreme weather (extreme heat, air quality during wild fires, etc.)

What are you currently working on?

I am working on a project that assesses infographics designed to communicate health impacts to rural populations impacted by wild fire, as well as a book project about extreme heat communication strategies.

What project or part of your career are you particularly proud of? I recently published an article that analyzes COVID-19 communication from the five largest cities in the U.S. during the first two years of the pandemic. The main goal was to build the idea of revisiting risk communication to prepare for future events. While this paper is about the pandemic, my hope is to keep broadening this concept to account for many different aspects of health communication. ([Click here to read the journal article.](#))

What piece of career advice can you offer? Try to have a combination of small and large projects going on at once so that you don't get bored.

Who runs your fan club? My wonderful husband Doug and my boys: Mojo and Luke Skywalker (the malshis that run my life)

Looking for a job?

Assistant Professor, University of Kentucky

The Department of Communication in the College of Communication and Information at the University of Kentucky seeks applications for an Assistant Professor position with an emphasis in interpersonal/intergroup, sport, health, organizational, or media communication. This is a regular title series, tenure-eligible, 9-month position.

The successful candidate will have a Ph.D. in communication by August 16, 2026. We are looking for someone who has a strong research portfolio and a record (or potential) of publication activity that is consistent with a major R1 university. The ideal candidate should also be a great teacher who can connect with and inspire students. [Learn more about the College of Communication and Information here.](#)

Application review will begin **October 18, 2025**. Questions may be directed to Search Committee Chair Allison Gordon at a.gordon@uky.edu. To apply, please visit ukjobs.uky.edu/postings/598968.

Non-Tenure Track Assistant Professor, University of South Florida

The University of South Florida seeks to fill a 9-month, full-time, non-tenure-earning Assistant Professor of Instruction position with a specialization in group communication or related courses. Applicants should be able to teach group communication courses face-to-face and online. Preference will be given to applicants who can detail experience or expertise in coordinating undergraduate communication courses. A PhD in Communication is required and must be conferred by the appointment start date on August 7, 2026. Salary is \$55,000. Review of applications will begin after **Nov. 3, 2025**. [Click here to learn more or apply](#); questions should be addressed to Aubrey Huber, Search Committee Chair (aubreyahuber@usf.edu).

Assistant Professor, Auburn University

The School of Communication and Journalism at Auburn University invites applications for a tenure-track position as an Assistant Professor of Communication beginning fall semester, Aug. 16, 2026.

Responsibilities include teaching undergraduate and graduate courses in health communication, health campaigns, media and health, qualitative research methods. Preference will also be given to candidates who can teach more general communication courses, including but not limited to courses such as organizational communication, communication theory, and persuasion. Attention will also be given to candidates who teach and/or research community-based health and/or healthcare.

Review of applications will begin **October 20, 2025** and continue until a candidate is selected. For more details and to apply, visit www.auemployment.com/postings/56103.

Assistant Professor, University of South Carolina

The School of Journalism and Mass Communications at the University of South Carolina invites applications for a nine-month, tenure-track Assistant Professor in Health Communication with an expected start date of August 16, 2026. This position is also part of a Presidential-level cluster hiring initiative. The successful candidate will conduct original research, teach undergraduate and graduate courses, pursue external funding, mentor students, and engage in service to the school, college, university, and profession. We welcome a wide range of expertise in health communication, but prefer a focus on information integrity and trust in health communication, including the role of social media platforms. Complete an online application at [USC Jobs](#) by **Oct. 27, 2025**.

Conference Announcements

Language and Social Interaction Division Pre-Conference Workshop at NCA

The Language & Social Interaction Division will be holding a one-day pre conference Wednesday, Nov. 19, titled "Discourse & Social Context: Engaging with Discourse Data and Methods to Elevate your Communication." This all-day workshop will focus on the theory and practice of discourse analytic methods. Three discourse methods will be explored among three contexts, including applied conversation analysis within healthcare communication (led by Drs. Christopher Koenig and Grace Ellen Peters). Other topics covered include ethnography within intercultural communication and interactional sociolinguistics within social media.

Presenters will lead the participants in applying these frameworks in hands-on analyses of discourse within the richly complex contexts mentioned above. [Learn more at the NCA conference website.](#)



Health Communication Division



Reminder

STUDENT NETWORKING SESSION



Saturday, November 22
4:00-5:15 PM



Adams Ballroom
Salon C



Meet, ask questions, and build relationships with health communication faculty experts and fellow graduate students!

Submit your work to the Kentucky Conference on Health Comm

The 2026 Kentucky Conference on Health Communication (KCHC) will be held April 2-4, 2026, in Lexington, Kentucky at the Hyatt Regency hotel. The theme of the 2026 conference is Health as a Human Right: The Role of Health Communication. We seek original contributions in all areas related to health communication, although special consideration will be given to abstracts that address issues related to the conference theme. We hope you will consider submitting your work to the conference.

Our online abstract submission system will open on October 1, 2025. The submission deadline is **Dec. 1, 2025**, by 8:00 PM EST. We accept abstracts for competitive papers and posters, as well as competitive panels. More details and submission instructions are available here: comm.uky.edu/kchc/2026/call.

Have something to share in the next newsletter?

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