OHBM 2027 Registered Reports Submission Guidelines

What to prepare and how to submit

Read this guide before starting your submission.

Key Dates

Annual Meeting	June 26–30, 2027 | Toronto, Canada
Snapshot Deadline	**Monday, December 14, 2026 at 11:59 p.m. EST. No exceptions.**
Stage 1 Invitations*	Friday, January 15, 2027
Full Stage 1 Report*	Friday, February 26, 2027
Peer Review*	March 5–April 30, 2027
Poster Decisions*	Friday, May 7, 2027

** Dates are tentative and should be read as 'no later than'. We will try to bring all the marked dates forward.*

1. About the Registered Reports Track

OHBM is piloting a Registered Reports track for studies whose results are not yet known. Submit a one-page snapshot (plus an optional figure page) of your hypotheses, study design, and analysis plan. Based on this snapshot, selected teams will be invited to submit a full Stage 1 report for peer review. Accepted protocols will be presented as posters in Toronto, refined after attendee feedback and registered on the Open Science Framework (OSF) with a DOI.

At most 20 snapshots are invited to submit a full Stage 1 report, and 10 to 20 protocols are accepted for poster presentation. Snapshots signal the intention to submit a Stage 1 report and allow us to coordinate a journal-like peer review process.

2. Check Eligibility

Your protocol must be sufficiently developed to complete a full Stage 1 report by February 26, 2027. Eligible studies must meet one of the three strictest bias-control levels as defined by Peer Community In Registered Reports (PCI RR, Table 1):

- **Level 6 (primary RR):** No part of the data or evidence that will be used to answer the research question exists yet, and none will be generated until after Stage 1 approval.
- **Level 5:** All of the data or evidence exist but are currently inaccessible to the authors, so they cannot be observed before Stage 1 approval (for example, data held by a gatekeeper).
- **Level 4:** At least some of the data or evidence exist and are accessible in principle to the authors (for example, in a public database or with a colleague), but the authors certify that they have not yet accessed any part of them.

Levels 1 to 3 (data already accessed, observed or analyzed by an author) are not eligible. Each person can be the first author of only one RR snapshot. You may submit standard abstracts on other studies, but a snapshot must not substantially overlap with a standard OHBM 2027 abstract. If overlap is identified, the snapshot will be withdrawn and the standard abstract will continue.

3. Prepare the Snapshot

Use the official OHBM 2027 Registered Reports Snapshot Template (Word or LaTeX). Submissions that do not use the template will not be considered. The snapshot is one page of text, plus an optional page with one figure. Page 1 has a header with the study title and authors, followed by:

- **Background and research question:** State the question, its importance to human brain mapping and the research gap.
- **Research questions and hypotheses:** The research question(s), their theoretical basis, and numbered, specific, falsifiable predictions (H1, H2, etc.). For null-effect tests, specify the smallest effect size of interest or equivalence bounds.
- **Study design and methods:** Describe participants/data, design, measures, inclusion/exclusion criteria and the target sample size with its justification (power analysis or Bayesian sampling plan).
- **Analysis plan:** Specify statistical tests, inference criteria and outcome-neutral checks for each hypothesis.
- **Conclusions:** What you will conclude given different results.
- **Key references:** Up to five, AMA style, with DOI links.

Formatting: One page of text, US Letter; margins at least 0.5 in (1.27 cm); body text at least 10 pt; references and figure caption at least 9 pt. Save the snapshot and the optional figure page as one PDF of at most two pages, no larger than 2 MB. Snapshots without hypotheses, sample-size justification or an analysis plan are ineligible.

Figure page (optional): One figure that depicts the proposed protocol, such as a design schematic, a timeline or a Study Design Table. The figure illustrates the snapshot; it does not extend it, and everything needed to assess the snapshot must be on page 1. The caption has a hard limit of 150 words, as selectable text. Text inside the figure is limited to labels and short annotations: text embedded in the image, including a caption pasted as a picture, is not used in the evaluation. A figure page used as a continuation of the snapshot, or a caption over 150 words, does not comply with the template.

4. Complete the Submission Form

Use the dedicated Oxford Abstracts Registered Reports form. Provide:

- Study title (up to 150 characters, plain text) and a plain-language summary (up to 150 words) for reviewer recruitment; these form fields are not published.
- Authors in publication order (up to 40, with up to four affiliations each), one presenting author and first-author financial disclosure. The presenter need not be the first author.
- Primary and secondary research categories with subcategories, up to 10 keywords, bias-control level, data-status confirmation and ethics-approval status.

- The snapshot PDF and acknowledgment of track commitments (both required), and optional reviewer exclusions for conflicts of interest. Provide working email addresses for the first and last authors.

Ethics approval, where required, must be in place before relevant study data are collected or accessed; approval is not required to submit a snapshot. Registered Reports submissions are free of charge for the OHBM 2027 pilot year; submission fees may apply in future years if the track continues. RR submissions are not eligible for OHBM 2027 Merit Abstract Awards or Travel Stipend Awards.

5. Review, Decisions and Author Commitments

After December 14, OHBM will provide the snapshots to the RR Track Committee. The committee will manage eligibility screening, scoring, invitations, Stage 1 reports, peer review and author communications. Three editors evaluate eligible snapshots for the research question, hypotheses, design and sampling, analysis plan and feasibility. Up to 20 teams may be invited to Stage 1.

Invited teams must submit a full Stage 1 report by February 26, 2027, following committee instructions. The first (lead) author must review three other Stage 1 reports and the last (senior) author must review one during March 5–April 30, 2027. There is no revise-and-resubmit round in the 2027 cycle. Final poster decisions are expected May 7, 2027.

6. Presentation and Publication

At least one author of an accepted Stage 1 report must register and present a poster in person at OHBM 2027. **Failure to present means withdrawal.** Accepted RR posters will appear in the OHBM mobile/web app, but not in the 2027 abstract book.

Attendees may provide protocol feedback through a poster QR code. Authors incorporate agreed feedback with committee oversight before the approved protocol is registered on OSF with a DOI. Completed Stage 2 studies must be submitted to OHBM 2028, 2029, or 2030.

Authors accepted after the standard early-bird deadline may receive early-bird registration pricing; no additional presenter or reviewer discount applies. Invitation letters will be available through the OHBM website after registration opens January 1, 2027. Submitted snapshots remain confidential during review.

7. Review and Submit

Check author order, presenting author, required answers and your PDF (one page of text, plus the optional figure page) before clicking Submit. Incomplete drafts will not be reviewed. Submission does not guarantee a Stage 1 invitation or poster acceptance.

Questions?

- For help using the submission form, visit the Oxford Abstracts Help Center.
- For questions about the submission guidelines, content or eligibility, contact the RR Track Committee (Oscar Esteban) at phd@oscaresteban.es.