



OHBM 2027 Roundtable Discussion Guidelines

June 27-30, 2027 | Toronto, Canada

Submission Deadline: **Monday, December 14, 2026 at 11:59 p.m. EST, USA (no exceptions)**

1. What Is a Roundtable Discussion?

A Roundtable Discussion is an interactive, discussion-driven session. Unlike a Symposium, the primary purpose is not to deliver a sequence of formal scientific presentations. Instead, moderators and invited participants should introduce relevant perspectives and create meaningful exchange among panelists and attendees.

- **Choose this format if:** the primary purpose is discussion, exchange of perspectives, or exploration of a community-relevant question.
- **Do not choose this format if:** most of the session will consist of traditional scientific presentations with only limited time for discussion.

2. Format Expectations

Dates	June 27-30, 2027
Session length	75 minutes
Participants	Maximum of 4 organizers; maximum of 6 participants.
Scheduling	Sessions run in parallel. Organizers and participants must be available throughout June 27-30 because specific scheduling cannot be guaranteed in advance.
Format	Alternative formats may include roundtable discussion or a mix of discussion and brief formal presentations. Applicants must describe the proposed format in detail.
Audience engagement	Depends on the proposed format; discussion should be a central feature.

3. What You Will Need to Submit

- Session title.
- Name(s) of organizer(s) - Maximum of 4.
- Name(s) of participants - Maximum of 6.
- A clear description of the central discussion topic, issue, challenge, controversy, or question.
- A description of the proposed format and how discussion will be structured.
- A brief description of each participant's role or perspective. If formal presentations are included, provide titles and brief summaries.
- Financial disclosure/release forms for all presenters and organizers.
- A brief description of the topic's timeliness and importance, desired outcomes, and why a Roundtable Discussion is the appropriate format.
- A justification explaining how participant selection meets OHBM's diversity expectations.
- Confirmation that all participants will attend in person.

4. How Roundtable Discussion Proposals Are Evaluated

Roundtable Discussion proposals are evaluated primarily on the strength of the proposed discussion, potential community interest and value, and overall quality of the proposal. Scientific topics are welcome, but the defining feature of this format is discussion and exchange rather than a sequence of formal scientific presentations. Applicants must explain the format in sufficient detail for reviewers to understand how the session will work.

- Clarity and appropriateness of the proposed discussion format.
- Potential interest and value to the OHBM community.
- Overall quality of the proposal.
- Diversity of participants and perspectives.

Review process: Program Committee members score Roundtable Discussion proposals, and those scores are used to assist in the selection process.

5. Eligibility and Participation

- Individuals selected as Talairach or Keynote presenters may not speak at or organize a Symposium or Roundtable Discussion. They may participate in Educational Courses and may serve as mentors.
- An individual may submit a maximum of one Educational Course proposal and one scientific program proposal—either a Symposium or a Roundtable Discussion. An individual may not submit both a Symposium proposal and a Roundtable Discussion proposal. The same or substantially similar content may not be proposed as both an Educational Course and a scientific program session.
- Presenters and organizers may participate in a maximum of one Educational Course and one Symposium, Roundtable Discussion, or SIG / Chapter / Committee Activity. Participation as a moderator or mentor does not count toward these limits.

Important: All proposed speakers and participants must be available to attend and participate onsite. Organizers must confirm the availability of all proposed participants before submitting the proposal.

If an accepted speaker or participant is later unable to attend in person due to exceptional circumstances, a substitute may be considered. Any substitute must be available to participate onsite, and the approved session topic and content may not be materially changed.

Substitution requests must be submitted to the OHBM Executive Office for review. Please contact Katie Johnson at kjohnson@humanbrainmapping.org.

6. Participant and Scientific Diversity

OHBM emphasizes team science and the value of varied scientific and personal perspectives. OHBM is committed to inclusivity, as outlined in our [Code of Conduct](#), which explicitly values diversity in career stage, age, culture, ethnicity, gender identity or expression, accessibility, language, and nationality.

Proposals should demonstrate balance in participant gender, career stage, and host institution nationality. Organizers are also encouraged to consider diversity across additional intersecting identities and to include participants from traditionally underrepresented groups or nations.

Scientific diversity is also crucial. Proposals should bring together varied scientific perspectives, approaches, expertise, or viewpoints appropriate to the session topic rather than presenting a narrowly homogeneous perspective.

If a balanced participant lineup is not possible in exceptional circumstances, organizers should provide a brief justification. The Diversity and Inclusivity Committee may be consulted in some cases.

Proposals that do not adequately address the criteria outlined above may be rejected.

7. Registration and Reimbursement

Roundtable Discussion participants and organizers do not receive complimentary registration or reimbursement.

Organizer responsibility: Please make registration and reimbursement policies clear to all proposed participants before they agree to participate.

8. Frequently Asked Questions

Can a Roundtable Discussion address a scientific topic?

Yes. Scientific topics are welcome. The defining distinction is format and purpose: a Roundtable Discussion is discussion-driven, while a Symposium is presentation-driven.

Can a Roundtable Discussion include presentations?

Yes. The session can include a mix of discussion and formal presentations, but the proposal should explain the format and discussion should remain central.

What is the difference between a Roundtable Discussion and a SIG / Chapter / Committee Activity?

A Roundtable Discussion is a discussion-driven session format centered on exchanging perspectives around a question, issue, challenge, controversy, or emerging topic.

A SIG / Chapter / Committee Activity is intended for official OHBM-affiliated programming that does not fit the Educational Course, Symposium, or Roundtable Discussion formats, such as mentoring, networking, outreach, community engagement, or other group activities.

If a SIG, Chapter, or Committee is proposing a discussion-driven session that fits the Roundtable Discussion format, it should be submitted as a Roundtable Discussion, even though it is being organized by an OHBM-affiliated group.

Questions?

- For help using the submission form, visit the [Oxford Abstracts Help Center](#).
- If you still have a technical issue, email support@conference-compass.com.
- For questions about the submission guidelines, content or eligibility, contact the OHBM Executive Office at kjohnson@humanbrainmapping.org.