A Word about the SPA Convention Proposal Review Process…

The last few years has seen a steady increase in the number of convention proposal abstracts. That, of course, has good news and bad news sides to it. The submissions have been excellent (as convention attendee ratings have evidenced), making the abstract review task simpler (the good news). Unfortunately, many acceptable abstracts have to be "rejected" because we simply don't have enough presentation slots in the convention program (the bad news). Further, in order to reduce the lengthy conference days for attendees, starting in 2020, the paper session length will be reduced from 2 hours to 90 minutes.

The Time and Space Available . . .

- Seven paper presentation time slots; one on Thursday, two on Friday, and four on Saturday. For each slot we are able to run six, 90-minute sessions.
    - Each session can be either a case presentation/discussion, roundtable discussion, symposium, integrated paper session, or general paper session where individual papers are loosely organized by similar content.
    - The number of presentations is limited to six.
- Two poster presentation time slots, on Thursday and Saturday evenings. There we are limited to 40+/- posters each night.

In the past, some individual paper authors have agreed to change their papers to posters. Still, many proposals must be excluded.

Last year we implemented a policy whereby **proposal abstracts for completed research projects were given preference over research projects in process as of the submission deadline. That helped somewhat and we will continue that policy this year**.

Another challenge occurs when presenters are included in several separate proposals. As one presenter can't be in two places at once, presentations must be scheduled during different time slots, which often conflicts with the ability to spread similar content across different time slots, allowing convention goers to take advantage of all sessions related to a content domain. **For the 2020 Convention, the author listed as the topic presenter will be limited to 3 presentations when content scheduling conflicts exist. In those cases, the presenter will be asked to find a replacement for the additional presentations.**

All abstracts (case presentations/discussions, roundtable discussions, symposia, integrated paper sessions, individual papers or posters) are reviewed and rated by multiple reviewers.