

HEI Annual Conference 2025 Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

This document was last updated on February 6, 2025, and will be updated as needed leading up to the start of the conference.

Important Dates

Conference registration opens	Tuesday, February 11, 2025 Note that HEI-funded investigators, committee members, and speakers will receive instructions from Robert Shavers and do not need to register through the website or book their hotel stay.
Final deadline for the Jane Warren award and open abstract submissions for poster presentations on research not funded by HEI.	Monday, February 14, 2025 Abstracts can be submitted here until February 14, 2025. Notification of acceptance: March 24, 2025.
Registration closes	Registration will close if we reach capacity for the event. We will alert the HEI community via email, social media, and our annual conference webpage when this happens.
Conference dates	The conference will take place in Austin, Texas from Sunday, May 4, 2025 – Tuesday, May 6, 2025.

Registration

Is a one-day registration available?	Yes, you can register for the full 3-day conference or any of the individual days.
Can I register on-site at the event as a walk-in?	We will offer on-site registration unless we reach capacity before the start of the conference. It is highly encouraged to register in advance. Online registration will close 48 hours before the start of the conference. We will take walk-ins if capacity is still available.

Travel & Accommodations

Where is the conference?	The conference will take place at the Austin Marriott Downtown (304 E Cesar Chavez St, Austin, TX 78701) .
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How do I get to the conference?

- The hotel is located 6.5 miles from Austin-Bergstrom International Airport (AUS) – travel [from AUS airport](#).
 - The hotel **does not** provide a shuttle service.
 - [CapMetro](#) offers a bus service from the airport to downtown.

See the [CapMetro](#) webpage for more information on Austin’s public transportation options.

Will I be impacted by the U.S. enforcement of REAL ID?

Starting on May 7, 2025, all U.S. travelers must have either a valid [REAL ID](#) or Passport to travel via domestic flights.

If you are U.S.-based and plan to travel by plane the day after the conference ends, you need to ensure you have the appropriate documents required for domestic travel.

How do I arrange lodging at the conference venue?

Conference attendees can reserve a room at the Austin Marriott Downtown when registering for the conference.

Note that HEI-funded investigators, committee members, and speakers will receive instructions from Robert Shavers and do not need to book their hotel stay.

Will there be free Wi-Fi?

Yes, we will offer free Wi-Fi to conference participants in the main conference area.

Meals

What meals are provided for registered attendees?

Conference participants who are registered for the full 3-day conference will receive the following meals:

- Sunday, May 4: Lunch & Dinner
- Monday, May 5: Breakfast & Lunch
- Tuesday, May 6: Breakfast & Lunch

All meals will include vegetarian options. **If you have further questions about the food options, please contact the hotel directly.**

Accessibility

Is there an accessible entrance?

Please see the [Austin Marriot Downtown Hotel homepage](#) for more information about accessibility at the hotel and conference venue.

More information is listed under “Property Details” near the bottom of the page.

What is the conference space like? Will the conference be accessible by wheelchair?	<p>The conference will take place in a single building and elevators are available throughout the building. There will be a select number of seats reserved in the front and back of the main conference room for those with wheelchairs or other physical considerations.</p>
Will sign language interpretation or captioning be available?	<p>Unfortunately, we will not be offering sign language interpretation or captioning of the sessions this year. However, after the conference ends, we will post the session recordings on our YouTube channel which will have the option for captions.</p> <p>There will be seats reserved in the front of the main conference room for use by visual or hearing-impaired conference attendees.</p> <p>We will always do our best to accommodate accessibility needs as they arise. Please reach out to Robert Shavers (rshavers@healtheffects.org) with any specific concerns.</p>
Can I bring my service animal?	<p>Service animals are welcome at the Austin Marriott Downtown. Emotional support animals are not allowed.</p>
I am nursing. Will there be a designated space for lactation?	<p>The hotel does not have a designated lactation room available.</p> <p>If you are staying on-site, the hotel can coordinate to locate you in a room near the conference space for quick access. Please contact the hotel upon booking to coordinate this.</p> <p>If you are not staying at the hotel, please contact Robert Shavers (rshavers@healtheffects.org) in advance to set up a private space that locks and has a mini refrigerator.</p>
Health & Wellbeing	<p>We recognize the associated health risks of large in-person gatherings, particularly to those with compromised immune systems. Please stay home and do not attend the conference if you are experiencing a fever, cough, muscle aches, or other COVID-19 related symptoms prior to or during the conference. We ask everyone to do their part in keeping our community safe as we gather.</p> <p>Masks are not required but we support all attendees who choose to wear one.</p>
Who can I contact at the venue regarding accessibility?	<p>We acknowledge that this FAQ does not offer a comprehensive list of accessibility needs. For further questions regarding the features of the accessible rooms, hotel common areas, or more specific information please call the hotel at +1 512-457-1111.</p>

Other

Will conference sessions be livestreamed or recorded?

The conference will be in-person only, meaning attendees will not be able to attend virtually via Zoom. However, we will be recording the slides and audio during all sessions and posting these on our YouTube channel following the conference. View past conference sessions [here](#).

If I have additional questions, who can I contact?

Logistics contact: Robert Shavers,
rshavers@healtheffects.org
Conference program contact: Dan Crouse,
dcrouse@healtheffects.org
