

HEI Annual Conference 2024 Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Important Dates

Conference registration opens	Tuesday, January 16, 2024 Note that HEI-funded investigators and committee members will receive instructions from Robert Shavers and do not need to register through the website or book their hotels.
Final deadline for the Jane Warren award and abstract submissions for poster presentations by investigators not funded by HEI.	Monday, February 19, 2024 Abstracts can be submitted here until February 19, 2024. Notification of acceptance: March 15, 2024.
Registration closes	Registration will close once 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 person from Sunday, April 28, 2024 – Tuesday, April 30, 2024.

Registration

Is a one-day registration available?	Yes, you can register for the full 3-day conference or any of the single days.
Can I register on-site at the event as a walk-in?	Maybe. We will offer on-site registration until we reach capacity. It is highly encouraged to register in advance as registration will close when we reach capacity, which may happen before the conference begins.

Travel & Accommodations

Where is the conference?	The conference will take place at the Philadelphia Marriott Downtown (1200 Filbert Street, Philadelphia, PA, 19107) .
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How do I get to the conference?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The hotel is located 10 miles from Philadelphia International Airport (PHL) – travel from PHL airport. • Amtrak runs trains to Philadelphia William H. Gray III 30th Street Station, less than 1.5 miles from the hotel. Tickets are best reserved in advance. • Greyhound runs buses to the Greyhound Station on Spring Garden Street in Philadelphia. • See the SEPTA webpage for more information on Philadelphia’s public transportation options.
How do I arrange lodging at the conference venue?	Conference attendees can select to reserve a room at the Philadelphia Marriott Downtown when registering for the conference. If this option is not selected, an attendee will be responsible for arranging their own lodging throughout the conference.
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 to registered attendees?	<p>Conference participants who are registered for the full 3-day conference will receive the following meals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sunday, April 28: Lunch & Dinner ○ Monday, April 29: Breakfast & Lunch ○ Tuesday, April 30: Breakfast & Lunch <p>All meals will include vegetarian options. If you have further questions about the food options, please contact the hotel directly.</p>
The conference overlaps with Passover. Will there be meals available for Passover?	HEI will send an email to all conference registrants at the end of March sharing conference details and asking attendees who need Passover-specific meals to indicate that need.
Accessibility	
Is there an accessible entrance?	<p>Please see the Philadelphia Marriot Downtown Hotel homepage for more accessibility information.</p> <p>More information is listed under “Property Details” midway through the page.</p>
What is the conference space like? Will the conference be accessible by wheelchair?	The conference will take place in a single building and elevators are available throughout the building. The actual rooms for meetings and dining are subject to change according to capacity limits at the hotel, and so we will not have this information in advance of the event.

Will sign language interpretation or captioning be available?	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.
Can I bring my service animal?	Service animals are welcome at the Philadelphia Marriott Downtown. Emotional support animals are not allowed.
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 (contact below) in advance to set up a private space that locks and has a mini refrigerator. The hotel does not have a designated lactation room available.</p>
Who can I contact at the venue regarding accessibility?	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 +1 215-625-2900.

COVID-19

We recognize the associated health risks of large in-person gatherings, particularly to those with compromised immune systems, and offer the following guidance: Please stay home and do not attend the conference if you are experiencing 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.

Are masks required?	Masks are not required but we support all attendees who choose to wear one.
Are current vaccinations required?	All attendees are encouraged to have up to date vaccinations according to CDC recommendations.

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, all sessions will be recorded and posted on our YouTube
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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
