International Society for Prosthetics and Orthotics
Learn. Exchange. Support. Innovate.

Presenting with Integrity: Artificial Intelligence, Ethics and Conduct Policy

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Policy overview

Purpose

This document sets out ISPO's unified policy governing the use of artificial intelligence (AI), research ethics, and presenter conduct at the ISPO World Congress. It applies to all abstract submitters, authors, panellists, workshop leaders, and presenters.

The policy has been developed jointly by the ISPO World Congress Committee (WCC), the Scientific Programme Committee (SPC), and the Technical Track Committee (TTC). The policy supersedes any previously issued guidance on these matters.

Fundamental principles of the policy

All submissions, presentations, and Congress contributions must be consistent with the following principles. These principles apply equally to abstract submissions, research ethics conduct, and the content of presentations and demonstrations. They are not aspirational – they are the minimum standard expected of all Congress contributors.

Core Principles

- Human-centred care — AI should support the principles of human-centred care. It should not replace professional clinical and technical judgement, and patient-centred decision-making.
- Safety and effectiveness — Patient safety and clinical/technical responsibility take precedence over novelty or innovation.
- Transparency — The role of AI is clearly and transparently acknowledged.
- Accountability — Human professionals remain responsible for decisions, outcomes, and consequences.
- Fairness and equity — AI systems must not perpetuate bias, discrimination, or inequitable access to care.
- Privacy and dignity — Patient data and human subjects must be respected and protected at all times.

Section A: AI use policy

This section applies to all authors submitting abstracts to the ISPO World Congress via the official abstract submission system.

A1. Scope and purpose

AI and generative AI (Gen-AI) tools are now commonplace in professional and research environments. This policy governs their use in the preparation of abstracts submitted to the ISPO World Congress. The aim is to ensure transparency, scientific integrity, and appropriate attribution — without discouraging responsible use.

A2. Permitted uses

AI and Gen-AI tools may be used to support the following tasks in abstract preparation:

- language editing, grammar correction, and stylistic improvement
- improving clarity and organisation without altering scientific meaning
- formatting assistance with text, figures, and tables.

A3. Non-permitted uses

The following uses are not permitted:

- generating, fabricating, or falsifying data, results, or clinical/technical cases using AI
- using AI to produce content that is misrepresented as original human-created work
- listing AI or Gen-AI tools as co-authors
- any AI use that falls outside the permitted uses above without explicit disclosure.

A4. Disclosure requirements

Where AI has been used in abstract preparation, authors must disclose this in the abstract. Disclosures should indicate the nature and scope of AI use. Permitted uses do not require detailed justification, but must be acknowledged.

A5. Author responsibility

All authors affiliated with a submission remain fully responsible for its accuracy, originality and integrity — regardless of whether AI tools were used. This responsibility cannot be delegated to an AI system.

Section B: Research ethics

This section applies to all authors submitting abstracts to the ISPO World Congress that involve research or practice with human or animal participants and/or samples.

B1. Scope and purpose

Research and practice in prosthetics, orthotics, and assistive technology often require ethical review and approval prior to commencement. ISPO is committed to advancing research that upholds high standards of ethical conduct and scientific integrity. This policy supports authors in clarifying their adherence to appropriate ethical review procedures.

B2. Ethical review and approval

Research and practice involving human participants or samples is expected to have either:

- Followed a relevant local ethical review and approval process; or
- Made clear why the research or practice activity is exempt from these processes.

ISPO recognises that ethical review procedures differ across national contexts. The expectation is not uniformity of process, but of rigour and transparency.

B3. Patient data and consent

Where applicable, submissions must also confirm that:

- No identifiable patient data has been presented without documented informed consent or appropriate ethical approval
- The submission complies with applicable privacy regulations (e.g. HIPAA, GDPR, or local equivalents)
- AI-generated patient images, cases, voices, or simulations are clearly identified as synthetic

B4. Author responsibility

Authors remain fully responsible for ensuring that a statement of ethical review and approval, or justified exemption, is included in both the abstract submission and any presentation of the work at Congress.

Section C: Presenter code of conduct for AI content

This section applies specifically to presenters, panellists, workshop leaders and contributors whose Congress content involves artificial intelligence, machine learning, data-driven systems, automation, or algorithmic tools, in any format.

C1. Technical and scientific integrity

AI must not be presented as a replacement for professional clinical or technical judgement. Claims regarding performance, accuracy, safety, or outcomes must be:

- Evidence-based and appropriately referenced
- Transparent regarding limitations and known failure modes

Demonstrations must not misrepresent:

- Technical readiness or maturity
- Regulatory status
- Level of validation or real-world adoption

C2. Disclosure in presentations

Presenters must clearly disclose, at the beginning of their presentation, where and how AI was used. This includes (but is not limited to) all instances where AI has been used for research, data analysis, writing, image generation, simulation, treatment planning, fabrication design, or product development.

C3. Bias, fairness, and risk

Where relevant, presenters must address:

- potential sources of bias in data, models, or deployment
- known or foreseeable risks to specific patient populations or clinical contexts
- reasonable steps taken to evaluate, mitigate, or monitor these risks.

C4. Use of generative AI in content

AI-generated content must be clearly marked as AI-generated content and not be misrepresented as original human-created work. Presenters remain fully responsible for accuracy, validity, ethical compliance, and appropriate attribution.

C5. Product presentations

Where a presentation involves a product or service:

- AI-related claims must be accurate, clear, and not misleading
- regulatory status must be stated where applicable
- capabilities must not be overstated or presented beyond current evidence or approval status.

Section D: Review and enforcement

ISPO, through its World Congress Committee, Scientific Programme Committee, or Technical Track Committee, reserves the right to:

- review submissions and presentations for compliance with this policy
- request clarification regarding ethical review, approval, or exemption
- require revisions, clarifications, or additional disclosures
- withdraw or reject submissions found to have violated this policy.

Serious violations may result in removal from the programme and/or restrictions on future participation of ISPO events.

Appendix 1: Compliance checklist and declaration

This checklist has been provided to support authors and presenters to ensure their submissions meet the requirements of this policy before submission.

Compliance checklist	
	AI use and authorship
☐	Any use of AI in preparing this abstract or presentation has been clearly disclosed.
☐	AI has only been used for permitted support purposes.
☐	No AI tool has been listed as an author or co-author.
☐	All authors/presenters accept full responsibility for the accuracy, originality, integrity, and ethical compliance of the submission and presentation.
	Research ethics, consent and privacy
☐	Where required, ethical review/approval was obtained, or a justified exemption is stated.
☐	Any patient, participant, or sample data is used with appropriate consent and/or ethical approval.
☐	The work complies with applicable privacy and data protection requirements.
☐	Any AI-generated patient images, cases, voices, or simulations are clearly identified.
	Presentation disclosure and integrity
☐	Where AI is part of the research, analysis, writing, design, product, or presentation content, this is disclosed in the abstract and/or at the start of the presentation.
☐	Any commercial, financial, or proprietary interests related to AI tools or systems are disclosed.
☐	AI is not presented as a replacement for professional clinical or technical judgement.
	Evidence, fairness and claims
☐	Any claims about performance, safety, outcomes, readiness, validation, or regulatory status are accurate, evidence-based, and not misleading.
☐	Where relevant, potential bias, risks, and mitigation or monitoring steps are acknowledged.
☐	All AI-generated content is clearly marked and is not presented as original human-created work.

You will be asked to complete an author declaration (see below) at the point of submitting your abstract. You must complete this declaration to be able to complete your submission.

Author Declaration

By submitting this abstract, I confirm on behalf of all authors that we have read and understood the ISPO Presenting with Integrity: Artificial Intelligence, Ethics and Conduct Policy [link], and that this submission fully complies with the policy.