The growth of equine-assisted activities and therapies (EAAT) has resulted in an urgent need for industry leading education and research. The Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International (PATH Intl.) Conference and Annual Meeting provides a forum to learn, discuss and evaluate current and future industry trends and practices. This professional setting facilitates study and reflection with colleagues and outside-the-industry experts on the major current topics and best business practices.

Each year the PATH Intl. Conference and Annual Meeting delivers the most valuable and comprehensive EAAT education opportunities available. Conference attendees are comprised of PATH Intl. certified professionals, program administrators, volunteers, board members, participants, therapists, healthcare professionals and individuals new to the industry. Knowledge and expertise are shared through workshops, sessions, networking events and the sometimes hands-on/horses in the arena experience of the PATH Intl. Horse Expo.

PATH Intl. is actively soliciting for consideration abstracts on important research, best practices, trends and developments that are of significance to the membership of the association.

The association is especially interested in receiving abstracts from presenters with information relevant to the field of EAAT who may not be working directly in the field but can share innovative programs, research or other information.

Topics of interest include, but are not limited to:
- Approved, completed research
- Equine health and behavior
- Nonprofit management
- Modeling of therapeutic results
- Health and wellness of EAAT participants
- Safety
- Leading-edge techniques
- Topics related to the field of therapeutic horsemanship
- Topics for advanced level instructors, administrators and mental health providers

NOTE: It is not appropriate for presentations to focus on selling or promoting materials or products. This includes but is not limited to therapeutic methodologies, products useful in EAAT programs, software or internet applications.

**What Is PATH Intl.?**
PATH Intl. was formed in 1969 as the North American Riding for the Handicapped Association. Since then the association has grown to reflect a dynamic field that continues to further discover and define the benefits derived from humans partnering with equines. PATH Intl. currently represents and supports 850 member centers, offering therapeutic riding, interactive vaulting, carriage driving, equine-facilitated learning, equine-facilitated psychotherapy and hippotherapy.
Globally, 4,400 PATH Intl. certified professionals and more than 7,500 individual members represent every continent except Antarctica. Through its field-tested safety standards and peer-reviewed accreditation process, PATH Intl. embodies the ideas of safety and professionalism in a burgeoning and fascinating field.

**Why Present?**
Presenting at the PATH Intl. Conference:
- Gives credentialed professionals, volunteers, board members, administrators, mental health providers and others in this field the tools to improve the services they offer to individuals of all ages who have a broad spectrum of special needs.
- Enables equine caretakers to maximize the level of care provided for the animals in EAAT programs.
- Supports a group of hard-working, caring professionals in a fascinating and rewarding field.

**Who Should Present?**
Healthcare and veterinarian professionals as well as individuals from the education and special education fields, research professionals focusing their work on the animal-human bond, mental health professionals, center program directors, administrative personnel and credentialed professionals are encouraged to apply. Professionals able to empower attendees with their fresh and innovative expertise in fund development, volunteer management or facilities management are also encouraged to submit an abstract.

**Presentation Selection**
Individuals interested in presenting at the 2014 PATH Intl. Conference must submit the completed abstract submission form to PATH Intl. by March 14, 2014, 11:59 p.m., Mountain Daylight Time. No abstracts will be accepted after this date! The PATH Intl. Health and Education Advisory will select speakers for the sessions from the abstracts submitted. (See Abstract Review Process.)

**Notification**
Please allow six weeks for the abstract review process. Notifications will be sent via electronic mail.

**Handout and Presentation Guidelines**
If your abstract is accepted for presentation, you must submit an electronic handout of your presentation to be given to all conference attendees. Prior to the conference, attendees will be able to download handouts from the PATH Intl. website. If handouts or a copy of the presentation are not submitted, the abstract will be used. If you plan to use video, please embed the video into the presentation rather than hope to stream content from the event. Presenters must provide their own laptop.

**Speaker Registration Fee**
Keeping conference fees and expenses at a minimum has been a primary factor in the continued success of the conference. To express gratitude toward those presenters selected by the Health and Education Advisory, PATH Intl. is able to offer a choice of one of two discount registration options:

1) Presenters who plan to participate in the full conference, i.e., attend any sessions, partake in any meals or functions, etc., may deduct $200 from one registration fee. If the abstract is taught by multiple presenters, the discount remains $200 total and may be used by one person or shared between presenters. If a presenter is teaching multiple sessions, only one discount will be permitted. Speakers must register with a hard copy registration form faxed, emailed or mailed.

OR

2) Presenters who will only be on site on the day they are presenting and who DO NOT plan to attend any other educational offering, meal or event on any day, are not required to register or pay a fee.

There is no travel reimbursement.

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**Important Dates**
**Abstract Submissions Due:**
March 14, 2014, 11:59 p.m., MDT

**Decision Date:** Allow six weeks for review process

**Conference:**
October 29 - November 1, 2014

The host site for the PATH Intl. Conference and Annual Meeting is the Town and Country Resort in San Diego, CA.
An abstract is a brief summary of the entire presentation; it allows the reader to survey the contents of the project quickly. Members of the PATH Intl. Health and Education Advisory conduct a blind evaluation of each abstract. Each reviewer evaluates the abstract based on the required format and criteria for abstract submission. Authors whose abstracts are selected for presentation will receive further instructions regarding the presentation.

HOW TO WRITE YOUR ABSTRACT: GENERAL CRITERIA FOR ALL ABSTRACTS

A complete abstract is clear, accurate, self-contained, concise and comprehensive. The topic is covered with enough detail so that no questions are left in the reader’s mind.

Please include the following:
• A statement of the purpose or objective of the material being presented
• A description or explanation of the presentation’s content, such as the specific program, theories, practices, methods, techniques or data to be discussed
• A summary of the principal points of the presentation
• The abstract text to be as informative as possible, coherent and logical.
• PATH Intl. prefers standardized language. Please check the current PATH Intl. Standards for Certification and Accreditation for terminology.
• If the presentation will include pictures and/or video of any participant, volunteer, etc., the presenter must have written consent from the individuals in the pictures and/or video.

SPECIFIC CRITERIA FOR REPORTING OF RESEARCH PROJECTS
• Abstracts on research must be submitted on completed projects.
• Research must be conducted by individuals qualified through education to conduct research.
• If presenting on an original research project, follow the headings as outlined on the Abstract Submission form.
• The research project must be approved by the appropriate ethics committee when human and/or animal subjects are involved. The ethics committee for human subjects is commonly called the Institutional Review Board (IRB). The name of the committee and when the project was reviewed MUST be included in the abstract information and the author must be prepared to provide proof of approval as requested.

To submit your abstract, please visit:
http://abstracts.pathintl.org/submit_form.php

Review of Abstracts
Reviewers will evaluate whether:
1) The topic is original, relevant and applicable to the EAAT industry.
2) The topic makes a significant contribution to EAAT.
3) The abstract meets the criteria listed above.