

Production and Operations Management Society
Best Paper Award Competition
College of Humanitarian Operations & Crisis Management
POMS Conference, May 7–11, 2026

The POMS College of Humanitarian Operations & Crisis Management (HOCM) invites all researchers to submit their papers to the 2026 HOCM Best Paper Award Competition. The objective of the competition is to identify and honor outstanding papers in the fast-growing field of HOCM. Naturally, the topic of the submissions should fall within the scope of HOCM.

Submissions will be judged based on four equally weighted criteria:

1. Theoretical contribution: the importance of the research questions and the potential to address a need or fill in a gap in the literature.
2. Methodological contribution and rigor: Whether the paper advances the methodology used in HOCM research and whether the methods and analyses are correctly and effectively implemented.
3. Practical relevance: The paper's potential to impact the practice of HOCM and improve people's well-being.
4. Future research potential: the extent to which the paper opens new avenues for future research in HOCM.

All research methodologies, including field/case studies, empirical, and analytical, are welcome.

Eligibility Criteria

- The paper must present original research and cannot have been previously published (including preprints) or accepted for publication at the time of submission. Papers under review (without preprint) at the time of submission can participate.
- The paper's abstract must have been submitted for presentation at the POMS conference in the HOCM track. If the paper is not in the HOCM track but fits the scope of the HOCM paper competition, the submission must be accompanied by an explanation of (1) why it must be in a different track and (2) why it fits the scope of the paper competition.
- At least one of the authors must register to present the paper at the conference.
- At least one of the authors must be a member of the HOCM college. If this is infeasible for financial or other reasons, please request a waiver from the competition organizer.
- Individuals may not be the first author on multiple submissions to the competition.
- Submission authors should not have been winners in the 2025 competition.
- The paper must be submitted only to the HOCM Best Paper Award competition; submissions to multiple colleges are not allowed and will be disqualified.

Finalists are expected to attend the HOCM business meeting and awards ceremony and present their paper in a special session during the conference.

Submission Process

1. Submit an abstract of the paper as an invited or contributed presentation in the HOCM Track using the POMS conference website before the abstract submission deadline.
2. Please submit a blind copy of both the abstract and the full-length paper by **December 15, 2025**, to the link <https://forms.gle/TiS6AiXD6RxWxJS49> or QR code below. Your submission should include: (i) the title of the paper; (ii) a list of all authors with their affiliations, email addresses, and an indication of which author(s) are members of the HOCM college; (iii) the assigned abstract number of the paper; and (iv) track

title to which the paper is submitted. The submitted copy of the paper should be free of any information that may identify the authors, and it should follow the POM Journal manuscript guidelines (http://www.poms.org/journal/author_instructions/). The main paper (excluding the appendix) should not exceed 32 pages, 1.5 spaced, in a size 11 font, including tables, figures, and references.

All inquiries could be made to the VPs of Awards, Iana Shaheen (ishaheen@walmart.uark.edu) and Irineu de Brito Jr (irineu.brito@unesp.br).

