

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

International Symposium on Alternatives Assessment–Virtual 2021: *Accelerating Safer and Sustainable Alternatives*. October 25-29, 2021.

The Association for the Advancement of Alternatives Assessment (A4) is seeking abstracts for its International Symposium on Alternatives Assessment to be held virtually on October 25-29, 2021. This year's Symposium, theme: **"Accelerating Safer and Sustainable Alternatives"** strives to highlight the increased attention on the innovation, identification, and adoption of safer and sustainable alternatives to replace toxic chemicals of concern.

2021 has witnessed increased attention and action in policy and in practice to advance a transition to safer and sustainable alternatives. Notable actions include the release of the European Chemical Strategy for Sustainable Chemistry, the passage of the US Sustainable Chemistry R&D Act, and the release of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development's (OECD) "Guidance on Key Considerations for the Identification and Selection of Safer Chemical Alternatives." To accommodate potential travel constraints and uncertainty, this year's Symposium will be hosted on a virtual platform. The A4 program committee is seeking abstracts for presentations in two main topic tracks:

- **New Methods and Approaches for Evaluating and Identifying Safer and Sustainable Alternatives.** The development of new tools, resources, methods, and case experiences that are advancing the identification, evaluation, and adoption of alternatives that consider both "safer" and "more sustainable" evaluation and decision criteria. New research expanding on core alternatives assessment competencies such as hazard evaluation and use of new approach methodologies (NAMs), comparative exposure assessment, life-cycle thinking/analysis, and decision analysis are encouraged.
- **Implementation of Alternatives Assessment in Public and Private Decision-Making.** Advances in alternatives assessment methods for use in policy and for private practice. Special consideration will be given to research or case studies focused on expanding the field of alternatives assessment into topics such as performance evaluations, cost comparisons, and socio-economic assessment.

Submitters may choose their preferred presentation format - platform or poster - pending the Symposium's Program Committee's approval. **Students and early-career investigators are encouraged to apply. The A4 Program Committee will issue awards to: (1) the best student presentation and (2) the best early-career investigator presentation.**

- Platform presentations will be 12-15 minutes in length and will be delivered as part of a panel discussion or technical session at the Symposium. Presenters should expect a high level of engagement with Symposium participants and fellow session panelists including responding to questions and comments.
- Poster presentations will be short (no more than 3 slides) presentations that will be made available to Symposium participants by pdf one week prior to the Symposium accompanied by a 5-minute presentation during the Symposium poster session.

Deadline for submission: Friday, July 16, 2021 (11:59 PM EST). Abstracts should be submitted online, through [this link](#). Early submissions are encouraged.

The abstracts will be selected for platform or poster presentations and authors will be notified no later than August 31, 2021 based on the following criteria:

- Relevance to alternatives assessment and informed substitution must be clearly stated.
 - Abstracts without a clear connection to alternatives assessment or informed substitution are outside of the scope of this Symposium.
- Relevance to the Symposium theme and topic tracks
- Contains detailed information to demonstrate high-quality science
- Research is novel and has not been previously published or presented
- Abstract does not promote products or services
- Limit of 2500 characters (including spaces) for the text of the abstract (not including title, authors, and author affiliations)
- Presenters agree to follow code of conduct similar to other scientific organizations such as [Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry \(SETAC\)](#) and [Society of Toxicology \(SOT\)](#). The Committee reserves the right to discontinue or cancel any presentation that is in violation of the code of conduct.

Please [contact us](#) if you have any questions or issues with submitting an abstract.