# THE MICROPLASTICS & NANOPLASTICS SUMMIT

Bridging Science, Policy, and Action

May 9–12, 2027, Lincoln, Nebraska

## ABOUT THE SUMMIT

You're pushing the boundaries of what we know about micro- and nanoplastics (MNPs) in the human body and the environment, from where they come from and how they move through our air, water, food, and built environments to what they do once inside us. Yet some of the field's most important questions remain unanswered. Reports of MNPs in the human body have moved this issue from an environmental concern to a human health priority. New methods continue to emerge, alongside ongoing challenges in measurement standardization, method validation, and the availability of reliable reference materials. Funding landscapes are shifting. The data are accumulating, but translating them into policy, clinical guidance, and community action has not kept pace. The 2027 Microplastics & Nanoplastics Summit aims to close that gap.

Hosted at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln, the 2027 MNP Summit brings together detection and characterization researchers, environmental engineers, health scientists, clinicians, policymakers, community and industry partners for four days of focused science, honest dialogue, and the kind of cross-sector connection that moves our field forward.

This is where the researcher who just cracked a new quantification method meets the engineer designing the mitigation system that needs it. Where the toxicologist who found particles in tissue sits across from the engineer who knows where they came from, and the program officer who funds exactly that kind of work. Where the clinician whose patients are asking about microplastics and nanoplastics meets the researchers who can tell them what the evidence shows. Where the data that've been sitting in your lab find the collaborator, policy pathway, or clinical application it's been waiting for.

We hope you'll leave with new collaborators, new funding leads, new research directions, and a clear picture of where this field is headed and the role your work plays in getting it there.

## WHO SHOULD ATTEND

- Researchers working on MNP detection, identification, characterization, and quantification.
- Environmental engineers developing mitigation strategies, treatment systems, and sustainable alternatives.
- Academic researchers and scientists investigating health impacts, toxicology, and human exposure.
- Clinicians and public health professionals bridging emerging MNP science and patient care.
- Graduate students and postdocs ready to get their work in front of the right people, find collaborators, and build the relationships that shape careers.

- Policymakers and regulatory agency staff who need rigorous science translated into actionable guidance.
- Industry and technology partners at the intersection of innovation, instrumentation, and environmental responsibility.
- Science communicators helping the public understand what we know and what we still don't.

## SUMMIT THEMES & TRACKS

Abstract submissions are invited across the following thematic tracks:

- Detection & Characterization: Methods, instrumentation, quantification, AI-assisted analysis, and emerging technologies for identifying micro- and nanoplastics.
- Health Impacts & Clinical Practice: Exposure pathways, toxicology, clinical implications, human health impacts, and translational health research.
- Environment, Exposure & Mitigation: Environmental transport, occurrence in food and water systems, mitigation strategies, safer alternatives, and sustainability approaches.
- Policy, Communication & Translation: Science communication, public engagement, regulation, translational science, and moving research into real-world action.

## WHAT TO EXPECT

We designed this Summit around one question: "What would make this experience truly valuable for the people advancing the field?" Not another conference where you sit through talks you could have read as papers. This is a collaborative summit—structured for connection, built for momentum, and paced so you actually have time to have the conversations that matter.

- High-profile keynotes from global and national leaders in MNP detection, environmental science, public health, and policy–the researchers and decision-makers you've been following.
- Concurrent sessions by track so your time is spent on what's directly relevant to your work and research focus.
- Interactive poster sessions with a few intentional twists—not a 45-minute afterthought with food in the middle.
- Hands-on workshops on laboratory contamination control and science communication, designed for active participation. Work through practical exercises and real-world scenarios rather than simply observing demonstrations.
- Future Directions Panel where attendees help rank the field's most pressing challenges and promising opportunities. The discussion is grounded in perspectives from multiple disciplines, creating a level of strategic dialogue rarely found at conventional scientific meetings.
- Collaborative drafting groups that transform the week's discussions into tangible outputs, including a measurement comparability needs statement and a prioritized roadmap of emerging opportunities. Join a drafting group and contribute to publications and reports that inform agencies, funding organizations, clinicians, and other key stakeholders.
- A welcome reception, networking dinners, and optional Sunday experiences throughout Lincoln—because the best collaborations almost always start outside the session room.

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## SUBMIT YOUR ABSTRACT

Bring your work into the conversation.

Submit your abstract: https://go.unl.edu/summit27_abstract

Whether your work advances our understanding of micro- and nanoplastics, develops new methods or solutions, examines environmental or human health impacts, or explores ways to translate research into policy, practice, and public action, we invite you to share it. The MNP Summit welcomes work from across disciplines, sectors, and stages of research.

We especially encourage submissions from graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, and early-career investigators. Your work belongs in this conversation, and this Summit is designed to make sure the right people hear it.

### Submission Types

- Oral Presentation: 12-minute presentation including questions. Competitive selection; limited slots per track.
- Poster Presentation: Standard format (48" x 36" recommended). All accepted posters eligible for the Summit Poster Award.
- Rapid-Fire Talk: 5-minute spotlight per presenter followed by poster display. Perfect for preliminary findings or early-stage work you want to get in front of the right people fast.

### Abstract Requirements

- Maximum 300 words (excluding title and author information)
- Structured format recommended: Background/Objective, Methods, Results, Conclusions
- Identify your thematic track and preferred presentation format
- Include up to 5 keywords
- Unpublished, original research strongly encouraged
- Interdisciplinary and cross-sector submissions especially welcome

### Key Dates

Abstract Submission Deadline: January 25, 2027
Notification of Acceptance: February 15, 2027
Early Bird Registration Deadline: April 1, 2027

### Review Process

All abstracts undergo blind peer review by the Summit's Scientific Program Committee, evaluated on:

- Scientific rigor and originality
- Relevance to summit themes and the broader MNP research community

- Clarity and quality of writing
- Potential for cross-disciplinary impact or translational application
- Contribution from early-career or underrepresented voices in the field

**Awards**

Your work deserves to be seen, and this field has no shortage of research worth celebrating.

- Best Oral Presentation Award (by track)
- Best Poster Award (by track, overall and by career stage)
- Best Rapid-Fire Talk Award (by track)
- Outstanding Early-Career Investigator Award (by track)

**Questions**

***Scientific Program & Abstract Questions***

For questions about summit themes, abstract submissions, presentation formats, or the scientific program: Yusong Li, Ph.D., Professor, Civil & Environmental Engineering, College of Engineering, University of Nebraska–Lincoln, yli7@unl.edu

***Conference & General Questions***

For questions about registration, scheduling, travel, accommodations, sponsorship, or other conference logistics: Changmin Yan, Ph.D., Professor, Advertising & Public Relations, College of Journalism and Mass Communications, University of Nebraska–Lincoln, cyan@unl.edu; Kristin Malek, Associate Professor, Event Management, College of Education and Human Sciences, University of Nebraska–Lincoln, drkevents@unl.edu.