

Breaking Records Without Breaking Process

The ISSCR seamlessly handles a record 1,700 abstract submissions in a single annual meeting with OpenWater

OVERVIEW

The International Society for Stem Cell Research (ISSCR) is a global nonprofit scientific organization advancing stem cell research and regenerative medicine. The Society supports the field through scientific exchange, policy and regulatory leadership, guidelines and standards, and clinical and public education. The ISSCR serves a global community of nearly 5,000 members and engages more than 45,000 non-member stakeholders worldwide.

PROBLEM

The ISSCR relied on a separate system for abstract and speaker management, paired with a third-party tool to write information back into their association management system (AMS). Staff couldn't see single sign-on or payment activity, and had to pay an additional fee just to keep the systems connected. Membership pricing tiers, including discounts for students, postdocs, and low-income countries, lived in their AMS but didn't sync automatically to their speaker and abstract management system. Abstracts had to be manually uploaded elsewhere for reviewer matching and scoring.

AT A GLANCE



**INTERNATIONAL
SOCIETY FOR
STEM CELL
RESEARCH**

INDUSTRY

Scientific Society

SOLUTIONS

OpenWater

MEMBER SIZE

5,000

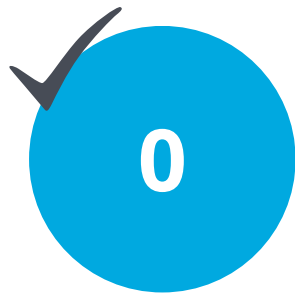
WEBSITE

isscr.org

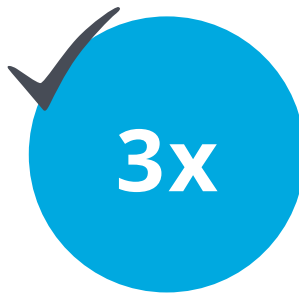
“*OpenWater helps streamline the speaker selection process and saves the staff time we used to spend pushing data between different systems and websites.*”

- Director of Technology and Business Operations at ISSCR

THE IMPACT



**Manual Uploads
Required for Abstract
Matching**



**Increase in Abstract
Submissions Since Adopting
OpenWater**



**Attendee Satisfaction
with Registration
Experience**

SOLUTION

Since adopting OpenWater, the ISSCR has consolidated abstract and speaker management into a single, interconnected system. Single sign-on now covers the full submission and review process, and abstract, speaker, and payment data write back automatically without manual re-entry. Membership status and tiered pricing, including discounts for students, postdocs, and low-income countries, now update directly within member profiles, so pricing stays accurate without staff intervention. Reviewers score abstracts within the same system that manages submissions, removing the need to upload abstracts elsewhere for matching. This streamlined process has allowed the ISSCR to scale to a record 1,700 abstract submissions in a single annual meeting, and attendee satisfaction with the registration experience has held at 95 to 98%.

- ✓ **Streamlined** the review process by allowing reviewers to score abstracts within the same system used for submissions.
- ✓ **Automated** single sign-on and eligibility checks, so membership status and tiered pricing update without staff intervention.
- ✓ **Eliminated** manual data entry and disconnected workflows by writing abstract, speaker, and payment data directly back into member records.
- ✓ **Empowered** the ISSCR to scale to a record 1,700 abstract submissions in a single annual meeting without adding staff.

“ *This annual meeting, we had a record-breaking 1,700 abstracts, and OpenWater was a real game changer.* ”

- Director of Technology and Business Operations at ISSCR