

2026 ACP INNOVATION AWARD CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

In recent years, important questions have been asked about the intent and effectiveness of advance care planning:

- Why, given the literally thousands of studies and hundreds of millions of dollars spent on them, has it been so challenging to demonstrate measurable effectiveness of advance directives/care planning?
- Does this mean that advance directives/care planning has “failed,” or is not a worthwhile focus of clinical time and priority, public discourse, further research funding, or legal attention?
- Are the “failures” of advance directives/care planning due to fixable problems of process? content? format? quality?
- Are we trying to measure the wrong outcomes or using the wrong methods in these research studies?
- Can we solve such perceived problems by even better research and/or programs? more conversations, more training for clinicians, better documents, documents with fewer legal requirements, etc.?
- Are the very ethical underpinnings of ACP – respect for patient autonomy; reliance on a rational decision-making process based on information, deliberation, and choice; and primacy of precedent autonomy – flawed or too centered in White European dominant culture bias?
- Can advance directives/care planning be accommodated to other models and worldviews such as relational autonomy or communitarianism?
- Are there other practical, technological, or educational solutions to ensuring patient care is aligned with the patient’s goals?

ACP Innovation Award

In 2024 and 2025 the Coalition for Compassionate Care of California invited descriptions of advance care planning programs, tools, processes, or frameworks that offer **A**mazing **C**reative **P**rofound or **A**ctionable **C**lever **P**ractical or **A**uthoritative **C**omprehensive **P**ersuasive responses to any of the above questions or to prove their premise wrong!

From numerous submissions, mostly from organizations within California, UCLA Health’s “Advance Care Planning Program” was selected as the recipient of CCCC’s 2025 ACP Innovation Award. Judges for the 2025 award were:

- **Mathew Gonzales, MD, FAAHPM**, Chief Medical Officer, Institute for Human Caring, Providence
- **Nathan A. Kotkamp, MA, JD**, Williams Mullen, Founder, National Healthcare Decisions Day
- **Hillary Lum, MD, PhD**, Division of Geriatric Medicine, University of Colorado School of Medicine
- **Holly Yang, MD, HMDC, FACP, FAAHPM**, Program Co-Director, UCSD/Scripps Health Hospice and Palliative Medicine Fellowship; Past President, AAHPM

We invite you to submit your ACP Innovation for 2026!

Submissions are due April 16, 2026; they will be reviewed by our expert judges according to criteria detailed below. The winning entry will be announced by the end of May. **Two representatives of the winning entry will be invited to give a plenary presentation at the 2026 CCCC Annual Summit**, October 15–16, 2026, in San Jose, CA. **Registration, travel, and accommodation costs will be paid by CCCC for the presenting representatives.** The winning entry will also be published on the CCCC website following the Summit.

Submission Process

Send your submission as an attachment to email addressed to Summit@CoalitionCCC.org, **with the subject line: ACP Innovation Award 2026 Submission. Due date: April 16, 2026, 5:00PM Pacific time.**

Submission Requirements

Submissions to the ACP Innovation Award must describe an approach to advance care planning that addresses any one or several of the questions posed on the previous page AND demonstrates *effectiveness* and *efficiency* in achieving its stated goals, preferably including goal-concordant care. Approaches that have been implemented must include results of the implementation; approaches that are proposed must provide a compelling argument indicating likely effectiveness. Submissions to the 2024 Award may be resubmitted with updated results.

Submissions must be formatted as Word documents, double-spaced, in 12-point Times Roman, Aptos, or Calibri font, with 1-inch margins, **maximum 3,000 words** (not including abstract and references). Abstract (max 250 words) should identify which question or problem is being addressed; objectives, design, setting/subjects (if applicable), measurements, results of the approach, program, project; and implications/conclusions. Maximum of eight (8) tables and/or figures may be included.

Submission cover sheet must include title; authors'/developers' names, credentials, job titles, organizations; emails, and phone numbers. **DO NOT INCLUDE AUTHOR NAMES OR ORGANIZATION anywhere in the body of the submission.** *Submissions not adhering to these requirements will not be considered.*

2026 Judges

Confirmed judges for the 2026 cycle:

- **Neil S. Wenger, MD, MPH**, Professor in the Division of General Internal Medicine and Health Services Research, and Lead for the Advance Care Planning Service, University of California Los Angeles
- **Nathan A. Kottkamp, MA, JD**, Williams Mullen, Founder, National Healthcare Decisions Day
- **Stephanie Anderson, DNP, RN**, Executive Director, C-TAC Innovations; formerly Executive Director, Respecting Choices
- **Erik Fromme, MD, MCR, FAAHPM**, Senior Scientist/Lead Faculty, Serious Illness Care Program, Ariadne Labs, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health

Judging Criteria

- Clear identification of the question, problem, or issue addressed
- Clear statement of the approach, program, or project
- Originality and relevance of the approach, program, or project
- Effectiveness demonstrated by or expected from the approach, program, or project
- Efficiency and economy of the implementation
- Replicability of the approach, program, or project