

Your Online Conference Networking Guide



Your Online Conference Networking Guide

Welcome to IHA's 25th annual Health Literacy Conference! During the conference, there are many ways to engage with fellow attendees, speakers, and leaders in the field. In this guide, you'll find tips for how to make connections and expand your network – at the conference and during any virtual event!

General Networking Tips

- ☐ **Be intentional.** Set a simple goal (ex. meet 3 new people or connect with 1 speaker).
- ☐ **Lead with curiosity.** Ask open-ended questions about others' work and interests rather than starting with your own pitch.
- ☐ **Look for common ground.** Reference sessions, topics, or shared challenges to make conversations more natural.
- ☐ **Engage actively.** Comment on discussion boards, ask questions in sessions, and participate in interactive events.
- ☐ **Follow up promptly.** Send a quick message or LinkedIn request within 1 or 2 days to reinforce the connection.
- ☐ **Be respectful of time.** Keep conversations concise, especially in virtual settings.
- ☐ **Offer value.** Share a resource, idea, or introduction when relevant. Networking works best when it's mutual.

Meet and Greet Discussion Board

Start here. Use this space to introduce yourself to everyone at the conference. Let other attendees and speakers know what you have in common or what interests you about their work. You can chat right here or start a private discussion.

Discussion Board

Keep an eye on our general discussion board as well. We'll post a new discussion question every day. This is a great way to engage with others around conference topics and current trends in the health literacy world.

Roundtable Discussions

These are highly interactive, informal conversations. You're encouraged to share your experiences and exchange ideas with other participants.

Meet the Speakers

Join speakers after select sessions to ask additional questions and continue the conversation.

Direct Messaging

Introduce yourself via private messages to other attendees during sessions. Try these ready-to-go drafts. Just fill in with your information and send off a quick message!

Share your contact

Hi (connection's name),

My name is ____ and I'm a (your role and background) based in (where you live). I saw your (how you found them at this conference) and wanted to reach out and introduce myself. I share your interest in _____. I (how you're involved or interested in this topic or work). It would be great to stay connected. You can find me on LinkedIn at ____ and my email is _____.

Thanks!

(Your name)

Schedule a chat

Hi (connection's name),

My name is ____ and I'm a (your role and background) based in (where you live). I saw your (how you found them at this conference) and wanted to reach out and introduce myself. I share your interest in _____. I (how you're involved or interested in this topic or work). Would you be open to setting up a time to chat more about (this topic)? My email is _____.

Looking forward to hearing from you!

(Your name)

Speed Networking

Participate in short, one-on-one conversations designed to spark meaningful connections. This event will occur on Wednesday, May 13th from 8:30 AM to 8:45 AM PT.

Use these questions and statements to spark meaningful conversations during our speed networking event. You can also use them during networking conversations that you set up with other attendees or speakers post-conference.

Getting to know you

- How'd you get into health literacy?
- What specific areas are you interested in within health literacy?
- What is a problem you're working on?
- What is an area you're looking to grow in?
- What's something you're proud of?

Insight into the field

- What do you see as the biggest challenges in health literacy right now?
- What is an area you think more people should be working on?

Mutual support

- Who else do you think I should connect with?
- Let me connect you with _____.
- Are there any organizations or groups I should look into?
- You should check out _____.
- What advice would you give someone in my position?
- How can I help you in your career?

Poster Competition

Browse posters and join a scheduled Q&A session where presenters will discuss their work. Afterward, vote for your favorite posters. This event will occur on Wednesday, May 13th from 11:30 AM to 12:00 PM PT.