SCCI 2026

HOFSTRA UNIVERSITY

Call for Proposals

15th Annual
Symposium on Communicating Complex Information

Keynote Speaker

Cathryn Molloy, University of Delaware

A researcher in the rhetoric of health and medicine, Dr. Molloy has been co-editor of *the Rhetoric of Health and Medicine* journal since 2020 and is an incoming co-editor for the feminist rhetoric journal *Peitho*. Cathryn is the author of the book *Rhetorical Ethos in Health and Medicine: Patient Credibility, Stigma, and Misdiagnosis* (2020) and co-author of the book *Patients Making Meaning: Theorizing Sources of Information and Forms of Support in Women's Health* (with Bryna Siegel Finer and Jamie White-Farnham) and the forthcoming book *Menopause Rhetorics*.

Symposium Objective

The Symposium on Communicating Complex Information (SCCI) invites proposals for the 15th Annual Symposium to be held at **Hofstra University in Hempstead, NY from April 13th to 14th, 2026**.

SCCI examines the relationships between humans, technologies, and information by exploring how design and content choices influence our behavior when we interact with complex information in different contexts. Our goal is to exchange ideas and share information on how to address the communication, design, and usability challenges associated with using complex information in various educational, personal, and professional settings.

General Focus

SCCI seeks to examine how an understanding of the settings in which people access and use complex information can improve the design of complex information systems. The need to understand the issues affecting how we communicate and share complex information affects many areas and audiences.

In essence, SCCI brings together teachers, practitioners, and scholars to address two overarching questions:

(1) How can individuals collaborate to devise new approaches to the design and evaluation of complex information systems?

(2) How can individuals work together to define what is meant by usability/user experience and what constitutes usable information in complex systems?

As such, SCCI should be of interest to researchers in fields as diverse as user experience, information design, technical communication, information architecture, data visualization, computer science, communication studies, health communication, AI, human-centered design, and library sciences.

Symposium Structure

SCCI seeks to maximize the exchange of information and ideas among the participants by ensuring equal time for discussions and presentations. The objective is to share ideas and seek opportunities to collaborate on or expand research that examines communicating complex information in different contexts. Social events on Sunday and Monday evenings allow participants to network as well as to continue discussions started during Symposium sessions.

Types of Presentations

Individuals can submit proposals for individual/panel presentations or poster presentations. Please keep in mind that sessions are built on the assumption of at least as much time for discussion as presentation. All proposals will be peer-reviewed and selected by relevance and likelihood of stimulating and contributing to this discussion.

Paper Presentation (proposals due November 7, 2025)

Fifteen-minute paper presentations followed by 15 minutes of discussion. Submit a 250-300 word position paper about your ongoing work, new interaction designs, opinions or approaches to the problem, or conceptual frameworks or theories.

Panel Presentation (proposals due November 7, 2025)

Panel presentations consist of 2-4 "flash talks" of 4 to 5 minutes organized around a focused topic, followed by 15 minutes of open discussion on that topic. (Inquiries regarding larger panels are welcome). The panel organizer should submit a 200-300 word summary of the panel topic, a list of the panelists, and a 100-word position statement from each panelist on how they will address the topic.

Poster Presentation (proposals due January 9, 2026)

Poster sessions accommodate late-breaking scientific research or preliminary research results. Posters will be on display throughout the conference, and poster creators will present their posters at a dedicated session during the conference. Submit a 200-300 word statement describing the topic of the poster.

Possible Topics

Possible examples for topics could include but are not limited to the following:

- Methods of communicating the complexities of healthcare information to a non-medical audience.

- Methods to better visualize complex information to support decision making or better understanding by non-professionals.

- Examinations of how user experience can address improving the interactions within complex information spaces.

- Discussions of how the results of big data analysis be displayed to both capture the subtleties and complexities but still remain usable.

- Reviews of what is common and what is different based on domain demands that should inform our analysis of needs, generation of requirements, designs and testing. How do we design information shared among interdisciplinary groups of experts?

- Methods required for testing and evaluating complex systems (e.g., health care situations, resources allocated among many projects, intelligence analysis of multiple sources of data, customer service working across multiple technologies and/or cultures).

- Methods of designing to maximize the user experience and enhance user interaction within complex information.

- Methods of designing to improve decision-making within complex environments.

- Methods of measuring users' comprehension of complex material and ensuring maximal comprehension.

- Methods of developing usability tests appropriate for a specific domain and that account for users' extensive domain knowledge or lack of domain knowledge.

- Re-evaluations of usability in light of visual analytics (i.e., using interactive visual interfaces to conduct analytical reasoning and complex knowledge work).

- Discussions of new usability approaches for examining the design of complex web sites.

- Descriptions and analyses of the ways experts in an area perceive complexity and simplicity in unique production environments, such as health care.

Registration

There is no cost to present or attend, but presenters and attendees will still need to register. Visit scci-annual.com/registration-contact to register.

Schedule

Key dates for the Symposium are as follows:

Paper and panel proposals due:	November 7, 2025
Poster proposals due:	January 9, 2026
Slides for symposium website due:	April 8, 2026
Symposium dates:	April 13-14, 2026 (dinner on 12th)

Submission Instructions

Please submit your presentation, panel, and/or poster abstracts using the submission link at scci-annual.com. Or, click the submission link below.

Submit a Proposal

Additional Details

For more details, visit the Symposium website at scci-annual.com.

If you have any questions, email the SCCI Steering Committee at scci.annual@gmail.com.