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Wednesday, August 3, 2026: Panel, Seminar, Forum, Workshop, and Debate Proposals Due

Chicago, IL, Jan 23-27, 2027, New Orleans, LA, June 12-16, 2027, Orlando, FL, Feb 5-9, 2028, June 24-28, 2028 – St. Louis, MO

	Session	Title	Co-sponsor	Champion	Status/Location
	Seminar	Eek! That Smell Might Kill Me! How Do I Know If My Air Cleaner Will Get Rid of It?		K-J	Seminar 51 8 to 9:30 on 7/1
1	Debate	Will ePTFE (expanded polytetrafluoroethylene) membrane be able to withstand PFAS and remain the leading filtration material for the next 30 years?		K-J	Chicago
2	Seminar	Air cleaning and indoor air quality control		Jensen Zhang	Chicago
3	Forum/Seminar	Ventilation for 3D printers		Marilyn, Chris V, Paula	
4	Workshop	Occupant related indoor air pollution	TC2.4	Chris V	
5	Seminar	Particle Loading of Gas Phase Filters- Is it a Problem? (Matt, Paula, Vijay, Brian)	TC2.4,	Paula	New Orleans and beyond
6	Workshop/forum	Breathing in your home		Nick	New Orleans and beyond
7	Seminar	PFAS “Free PFAS Filters”		Chris V	
8	Debate	Artificial Intelligence (Brian, Marilyn, +2 more)		Brian	
9	Seminar?	Low cost gas sensors (e.g. Sensirion),			

Chicago Tracks

1. **Fundamentals and Applications** are the foundation for understanding applications in engineering. Key components of ASHRAE fundamentals include thermodynamics, psychrometrics, heat transfer, and fluid flow. This track provides opportunities for papers and presentations of varying levels across a large topic base. Concepts, design elements and shared experiences for theoretical and applied concepts of HVAC&R design are included. Track Chair: Jon Cohen |
2. **HVAC&R Systems and Equipment** are constantly evolving to address the changing requirements of the built environment. Papers and programs in this track focus on the development of new systems and equipment, novel applications of existing systems and equipment, improvements to existing systems and equipment and the proper application and operation of systems and equipment. Track Chair: Richard Gunpat |
3. **Refrigeration & Refrigerants** systems generate and use cold for a range of processes, from food production and temperature-controlled storage to vaccine preservation, to long-term protection of fragile ancient inks of historic documents and others. Differences in technologies and equipment, performance, refrigerants, etc., may hide synergies from which both industrial and commercial systems might benefit. Refrigeration systems and the refrigerants also have environmental impacts including direct and indirect GHG emissions. Papers and programs in this track will focus on refrigeration systems of all types from process cooling to comfort cooling as well as best practices for refrigerants that are used in refrigeration systems. Track Chair: Anuj Gupta |
4. **Research Summit:** Active research, and the exchange of those research findings, are critical to the development of our HVAC&R industry and built environment. This track invites researchers to share those results, including ASHRAE-sponsored research and research of interest to the ASHRAE community. Researchers are invited to present papers, extended

abstracts, seminars, forums or participate in panel discussions. The Research Summit includes a partnership with ASHRAE's archival journal, Science and Technology for the Built Environment. Track Chair: Haotian Liu |

5. **Residential HVAC Research and Demonstration** focuses on improving heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems in dwellings to enhance comfort, energy efficiency, and indoor environmental quality. It emphasizes advanced heat pumps, smart thermostats, low-carbon refrigerants, dual fuel systems, radiant heating and cooling and heat recovery for residential applications. This track invites studies analyzing energy consumption, peak demand, occupant comfort, cost, and reliability under real-world conditions. Field measurements, simulations, and occupant behavior research identify performance gaps between design and operation. The scope also includes grid integration and climate resilience, supporting technologies and policies that reduce emissions, lower utility bills, and deliver healthier, more comfortable homes across diverse climates and housing types. Track Chair: Vinod Venugopāl |
6. **Thermal Network Systems and Energy Storage:** research investigates the modeling, design, and optimization of interconnected thermal components used to represent heat transfer and energy flows in buildings, industrial processes, and energy systems. Using network-based approaches, researchers simplify complex thermal behavior into nodes and links, enabling efficient simulation of heat storage. This track focuses on applications such as networked building energy modeling, district heating and cooling, and advanced control architecture. Emphasis is placed on accuracy, computational efficiency, parameter identification, and integration with control algorithms to improve energy efficiency Track Chair: Dennis Alejandro |
7. **Nexus of Real and Artificial Intelligence** explores how human insight and AI-enabled HVAC controls work together to elevate building operations. It considers how people and algorithms share decisions, learn from one another, and blend experiential knowledge with data-centric modeling, machine learning, and automation to produce transparent, adaptive systems that improve performance and resilience. Particular attention is directed toward data-center environments, building and campus design strategies, and power-delivery systems. Track Chair: Joshua Vasudevan |
8. **Building Decarbonization Retrofits** focus on reducing emissions from existing buildings through improvements, including control modifications, commissioning (could be retrocommissioning), system or equipment replacements, etc. Relevant topics include weatherization and pressurization, heat pumps and other high efficiency HVAC systems, renewable integration, and controls. Programs in this track will focus on implementation process, cost evaluation, performance, occupant impacts, and carbon savings across climates with emphasis on scalable retrofit strategies that lower energy use, improve comfort, and extend building lifespans. Track Chair: Kevin Brown |
9. **Application Notes in Professional Practice** introduces a new option for individual presentations on industry professional-focused applications of technology, design, and implementation. Sessions in this track will support the dissemination of lessons learned, best practices, and practical guidance throughout the HVAC&R industry. In addition to a short oral presentation, speakers must submit a 3-6 page brief ("Application Note") intended to guide engineers and practitioners in future projects. The Application Note format also serves as valuable documentation for future collaboration and training.

Types of Presentations Presented

1. **Paper Sessions:** These sessions present both technical and conference papers. Conference papers are written on current applications or procedures, as well as papers reporting on research in process. These papers differ from technical papers in that they are shorter in length and undergo a much less stringent peer review. Technical papers cover current applications or procedures, as well as papers resulting from research on fundamental concepts and basic theory. Papers presented in these sessions have successfully completed a rigorous peer review. PowerPoint presentations with audio descriptions of the presentations are posted online in the Virtual Conference. Preprints of the papers are available to all attendees who have purchased a conference registration.
2. **Forums** are “off-the-record” discussions held to promote a free exchange of ideas. Reporting of forums is limited to allow individuals to speak confidentially without concern of criticism. There are no papers attached to these forums.
3. **Debates** highlight hot-button issues. Experts, either on teams or as individuals, present different sides of an issue in debate format. Each participant presents evidence for or against a specific statement or question such as ‘Is Sustainability Really Sustainable?’
4. **Panel discussions** can feature a broad range of subjects and explore different perspectives on issues in the industry. A panel may feature discussions about integrated project delivery among designers, builders and facility management professionals.
5. **Seminars** feature presentations on subjects of current interest. Papers are not available from the Society; however, seminar PowerPoint presentations with audio descriptions of the presentations are posted online in the Virtual Conference. Access is free for attendees who purchase a conference registration. Seminars are available as a collection via subscription to the Technology Portal online and include video files synched with audio, audio files and PDF files of the presentations.
6. **Workshops** enable technical committees and other ASHRAE committees to provide a series of short presentations on a topic requiring specific expertise. These short presentations are provided with an increased emphasis on audience participation and training in a specific set of skills. PowerPoint presentations with audio descriptions are posted online in the Virtual Conference.