



# GACOPA CONCEPT NOTE

The 5th GACOPA international Delegates and Scientific Conference

**AUGUST 27- AUGUST 30, 2025**  
Aston University, Birmingham UK



## 5th GACOPA International Delegates and Scientific Conference Final Concept Note

# Welcome to Birmingham and Aston University

Following a unanimous decision by the GACOPA International Executive Council in August 2024, Aston University, located in the heart of Birmingham, UK, was selected as the venue to host the 5th GACOPA International Delegates and Scientific Conference. This decision underscores the university's reputation as a global center for health sciences, research, and professional development, making it the ideal destination for a landmark event focused on advancing the role of Clinical Officers and Physician Associates worldwide.

### Event Details

- **Dates:** August 27, 2025 – August 30, 2025
- **Venue:** Conference Aston, Aston University, Birmingham, UK
- **Last Booking Date:** August 24, 2025

This is an international conference for Clinical Officers, Physician Associates, and PA Analogues from across the world, gathering at Conference Aston, Aston University, Birmingham, England, from August 27-30, 2025.

### Attendee Categories & Fees:

- **Day Rate:** £120.00
- **Full Conference (Special Nations - Africa & Asia):** £200.00
- **Full Conference Attendance:** £340.00
- **Students Attendance:** £50.00

Registration is available via the Aston University payment portal, accessible on the GACOPA website.





## Conference Background and Objectives

The Global Association of Clinical Officers and Physician Associates (GACOPA) is a worldwide professional body dedicated to uniting Clinical Officers, Physician Associates, and related cadres under a single umbrella. With members from over 74 countries and growing, GACOPA fosters collaboration, professional excellence, and the recognition of Clinical Officers and Physician Associates as integral healthcare providers in achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC).

The 5th GACOPA International Delegates and Scientific Conference aims to:

- **Strengthen professional identity** by enhancing the role and recognition of Clinical Officers and Physician Associates globally.
- **Promote knowledge exchange** through research, policy discussions, and workshops that drive innovation in healthcare delivery.
- **Advocate for policy change** to ensure regulatory frameworks support task-sharing, education standardization, and professional mobility.
- **Foster international partnerships** among healthcare institutions, academic bodies, and professional associations to create a unified front in addressing global health challenges.



# Conference Venue and Facilities

Conference Aston Hotel provides a modern and well-equipped venue for the event, ensuring a professional and comfortable experience for attendees.



## Conference Spaces:

- **Main Conference Room:** Conference Room 1, Ground Floor
- **Exhibition Zone:** Courtyard Restaurant Private Dining Rooms 1-4 Combined

## Workshop Rooms

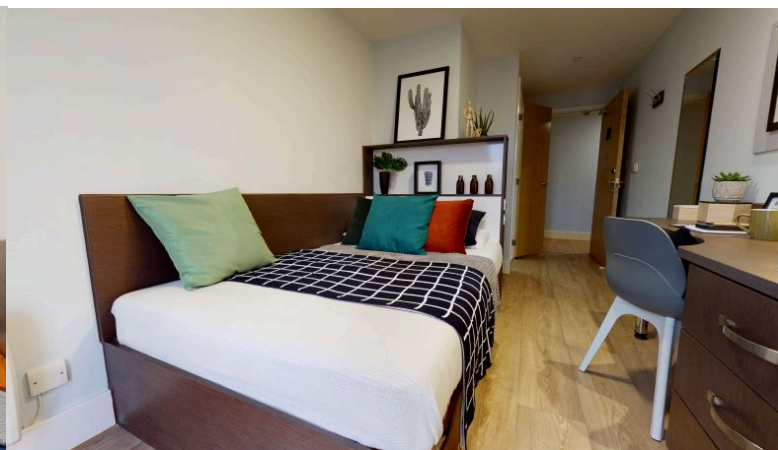
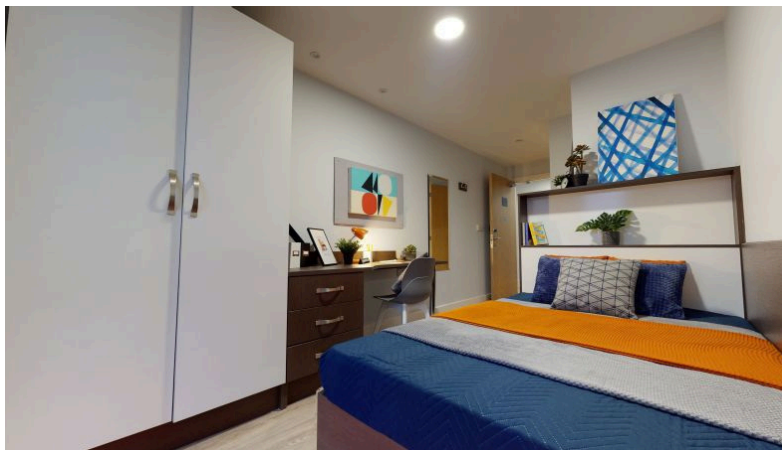
- **Large:** Meeting Room 144 (60 people) / Meeting Room 145 (60 people)
- **Medium:** Conference Room 3 (50 people) / Meeting Room 123 (40 people) / Meeting Room 127 (30 people)

## Gala Dinner Suite

- Courtyard Restaurant Private Dining Rooms 1-4 Combined



## Accommodation Options




- **City Single Bedrooms:** Compact Room, Small Double Bed, Ensuite with Shower
- **City Double Bedrooms:** Standard Room, Standard Double Bed, Ensuite with Bath and Shower
- **Executive Double Bedrooms:** Premium Room, Standard Double Bed, Ensuite with Bath and Shower
- **Twin Bedrooms:** Two Single Beds Available

Accommodation rates include a full English and continental breakfast.



## YOUR EXCLUSIVE HOTEL BEDROOM RATE FOR **GACOPA 2025 – EVNT012463**

1. To book, click: [Online Booking Portal for Event-Linked Accommodation](#) 
2. Once the webpage loads, it will automatically show the night(s) available to book as part of your event or group accommodation booking  
To change the dates of your stay, you must change the arrival date first, followed by the departure date. The system will not allow just the departure date to be altered.
3. Enter the number of guests and click “Search”
4. Scroll down and select your preferred room type
5. Once the room and rate is added to your basket on the right side of the screen, click “Continue Booking” and follow the steps to confirm your reservation.

**We look forward to welcoming you to Conference Aston**

If you have any questions regarding the booking process, please contact the hotel on **0121 204 4300** or email [\*\*reservations@conferenceaston.co.uk\*\*](mailto:reservations@conferenceaston.co.uk)

## How to Reach **Aston University** from London or **Upon Arrival** in the UK

For international delegates arriving in the United Kingdom, Birmingham is easily accessible from major entry points like London Heathrow Airport, Gatwick Airport, and Birmingham International Airport.

### From London Heathrow Airport (LHR):

- Take the Heathrow Express to London Paddington Station (15 min).
- Transfer to the London Underground (Circle Line) to Euston Station (10 min).
- Board a direct train from London Euston to Birmingham New Street (1h 20 min).
- Upon arrival at Birmingham New Street Station, Aston University is a 15-minute walk or a short taxi ride.

### From Birmingham International Airport (BHX)

- Take the Air-Rail Link to Birmingham International Train Station (2 min).
- Board a direct train to Birmingham New Street Station (10 min).
- Aston University is a 15-minute walk or short taxi ride.



## Alternative Transport Options

- Coaches: National Express and Megabus offer affordable coach services from Heathrow, Gatwick, and Manchester Airports to Birmingham Coach Station.
- Taxis & Ride-Hailing: Uber, Bolt, and local taxis are available from all major UK airports.
- Car Rentals: Available at all major airports for those preferring self-drive.

With multiple convenient transport options, reaching Aston University in Birmingham is simple, ensuring a seamless travel experience for all delegates.





## Conference Theme and Sub-Themes

### MAIN THEME

**"One Vision, One Cadre: Standardizing Clinical Officers and Physician Associates as the Global Cadre for Universal Health Coverage"**

### Sub-themes

- **Regulatory Frameworks and Global Standardization** – Strengthening recognition of Clinical Officers and Physician Associates internationally.
- **Innovations in Healthcare Delivery** – Exploring digital health, AI, and technology in clinical practice.
- **Policy and Advocacy for Universal Health Coverage (UHC)** – Strengthening the role of Clinical Officers and Physician Associates in achieving UHC.
- **Training and Professional Development** – Enhancing curriculum standardization and continuous education.
- **Partnerships and Collaborations** – Strengthening global healthcare networks and fostering partnerships with governments and NGOs.

## Call for Abstracts and Awards

We invite abstract submissions aligned with the conference theme and sub-themes. Selected abstracts will be presented during the research sessions.

### Key Award Categories

- Outstanding Clinical Practitioner of the Year
- Best Research Presentation
- Excellence in Policy Advocacy
- Leadership in Healthcare Innovation
- The GACOPA Presidents Award

### Abstract Submission Process:

Email abstracts to:  [abstract@gacopa.org](mailto:abstract@gacopa.org)

A team of experts on the abstract committee will review all submissions, and notifications will be sent by June 30, 2025.

### Media and Communication

Flyers, posters, and other releases will be managed by the conference organizing team and released frequently via all official GACOPA channels:

### Media and Communication

- **Facebook:** Global Association of Clinical Officers and Physician Associates
- **X (formerly Twitter):** @GACOPA-official
- **WhatsApp Groups:** GACOPA World Official, GACOPA World, **GACOPA Africa**
- **Regional GACOPA Coordinators** (To be announced)





## PROGRAM FOR 5TH INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC AND DELEGATES CONFERENCE OF GACOPA

**27th – 30th August 2025**

**Venue: Aston University, Conference Aston, Birmingham, England.**

**Wednesday 27 August 2025 Day 1**

<b>3:30PM - 6:00PM</b>	<b>Registration Desk Opens</b>		
<b>3:30 PM - 6:00PM</b>	Student Presentations <b>Hosted by Professor Philp Begg</b>	<b>Afternoon Tea 2:30 PM - 3:00PM</b>	Student Presentations
<b>6:30 PM - 8:00PM</b>	<b>Informal welcome evening Conference Aston Hosted by GACOPA Executive</b>		



**Thursday 28 August 2025 Day 2**

<b>8:00AM - 5:00PM</b>	<b>Registration Desk Opens</b>
<b>9:00AM - 10:30AM</b>	<p><b>Official Welcome to Birmingham and Aston University by Professor Aleks Subic, Vice-Chancellor Aston University</b></p> <p><b>Welcome to Aston Medical School, History and Widening Participation</b> Professor Eamonn Maher, Dean of Medicine</p> <p><b>Key Note address - GMC : Road to registration, Challenges and successes ( TBA)</b></p> <p><b>Introduction of dignitaries present and invited guests</b></p> <p><b>AWARDS</b></p>
<b>10:30 AM - 10:45AM</b>	<b>Morning Coffee and Networking</b>
<b>10:45AM - 12:00PM</b>	<p><b>Keynote Speaker 2 – ( Africa)</b> <b>(10.45am – 11.00am)</b></p> <p><b>Remarks by GACOPA President – Austin Odour Otieno</b> <b>(11.00am – 11.15am)</b></p> <p><b>The GACOPA Report by the Secretary General and introduction of all GACOPA executives present.</b> <b>Fraternal Messages:</b> IAPAE IPAO WAAPA NCCPA AAPA GACOPA (EA) WHO ILO</p>
<b>11:35AM - 11:40AM</b>	<b>Remarks by Alice Fitzpatrick - Ag. President, Office of Physician Associates College of Medical Associate Professionals (CMAPs)</b>
<b>11:40 AM - 12:00PM</b>	<b>Roll Call attending Countries and Their National Associations Greetings</b>

Thursday 28 August 2025 **Day 2**

12:00PM - 13:00PM	Lunch break, Exhibition and Networking	
13:00PM - 14:30PM	<div>Panel Discussion – TBA (Topic – Globalizing the Practice and Local Regulations) 13.00pm – 14.30pm</div> <div>Panellists: 1.GMC 2.GACOPA 3.AAPA 4.PAEA 5. IAPAE 6.WHO 7. ILO</div>	
14:30PM - 15:00PM	Afternoon tea, Exhibition and Networking	
15:00PM-16:30PM 40 minutes per session	<div>Session 1: LOOOP Presentation, Results so far and moving forward. Presentation: Scott Smalley</div> <div>Panel Discussion to follow:</div> <div>Panellists:</div>	<div>Session 2: The Global Strategic Impact, results so far and moving forward.</div> <div>Presentation: TBA</div>
16:30 PM - 17:00PM	Summary of Day 2. -TBA	
Free evening for dinner and Networking		



## Friday 29 August 2025 Day 3

08:00AM - 5:00PM	Registration desk open			
09:00AM - 10:30AM	9.00am – 9.15am Introduction to Day 3. Chair:  9.15am – 10.00am Keynote 3. Jonathan Sobel- President of the New York state Society of Physician Associates  10.00am – 10.30am Discussion Topic – TBA			
10:30 AM - 11:00AM	Morning Coffee, Exhibition and Networking			
11:00AM - 12:00PM	Research Paper 1	Research Paper 2	Research Paper 3	Research Paper 4
12:00PM - 13:00PM	Lunch, Exhibition and Networking			
13:00PM - 14:30PM	Workshop 1	Workshop 2	Workshop 3	
14:30PM - 15:00PM	Afternoon tea, Exhibition and Networking			
15:00PM-16:30PM	Workshop 1	Workshop 2	Workshop 3	
16:30 PM - 17:00PM	Summary of Day 3. -TBA			

## Saturday 30 August 2025 Day 4

08:00AM - 9:00AM	Registration desk open		
09:00AM - 09:45AM	Keynote 4. – Asia (Gomathi Sundar President IAPA)		
09:50AM - 10:20AM	Legislative Forum (topic to be announced)		
10:20AM - 10:30	The Evolution of an Idea: One Letter, One Identity, One Global Movement” (TBA)		
	Announcement of the next Hosts		
10:30 AM - 11:00AM	Morning Coffee, Exhibition and Networking		
11:00AM - 12:30PM	Research Paper 1	Research Paper 2	Research Paper 3
12:30PM - 13:00PM	Closing remarks		
1:00PM - 7:00PM	Free for cultural exploring and enjoying the local heritage		
7:00PM - LATE	<p>5th Annual Conference Gala Dinner</p> <p>Conference Aston Dinning</p> <p>Dress in your national dress or formal</p>		



**Aston University**  
BIRMINGHAM UK

# CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

Be a Voice at  
GACOPA 2025!

**CALLING ALL GLOBAL  
HEALTH CHAMPIONS**

**The 5th GACOPA International  
Delegates Conference**  
Aston University, Birmingham  
| August 27–30, 2025



## THEME

**One Vision, One Cadre – Standardizing Clinical  
Officers & Physician Associates as the global  
cadre for Universal Health Coverage**

Whether you're a clinician, student, educator,  
researcher, or health advocate your insights  
matter.

We're calling for abstract submissions that ignite  
innovation, strengthen health systems, and  
elevate the global role of Clinical Officers and  
Physician Associates.

Submit under these key areas:



**GLOBAL REGULATION & RECOGNITION**



**AI, DIGITAL HEALTH & INNOVATION**



**UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE &  
ADVOCACY**



**EDUCATION & PROFESSIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT**



**PARTNERSHIPS & GLOBAL  
COLLABORATION**

More details on abstracts on our website  
[www.gacopa.org](http://www.gacopa.org)

## STAND OUT AWARDS FOR

Best Research | Clinical Excellence | Policy Advocacy |  
Innovation Leadership | Outstanding Clinical Practitioner of  
the year 2024/25

## SUBMISSION PERIOD

May 1 – June 15, 2025

Send to: [abstract@gacopa.org](mailto:abstract@gacopa.org)

Notification by: June 30, 2025

**YOUR VOICE CAN SHAPE THE  
FUTURE OF GLOBAL HEALTH.**

Join us in Birmingham!



21/02/2025

**ENDORSEMENT OF THE 5TH GACOPA INTERNATIONAL DELEGATES AND SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE**

Aston University is pleased to host and support the **5th Global Association of Clinical Officers and Physician Associates (GACOPA) International Delegates and Scientific Conference**, which will be held from **August 27 to 30, 2025**, at our university in Birmingham, United Kingdom.

This conference, organized by **GACOPA**, will bring together healthcare professionals, policymakers, researchers, and academics from around the world to engage in discussions on **education, training, policy, standardization, and advancements** in the profession of **Clinical Officers and Physician Associates**.

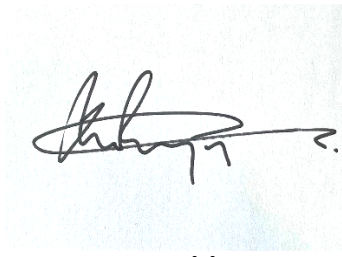
As a leading institution in **health sciences, research, and professional education**, Aston University is committed to supporting initiatives that strengthen healthcare systems worldwide. The role of **Clinical Officers and Physician Associates** is integral in achieving **Universal Health Coverage (UHC)** and enhancing access to quality healthcare services globally.

We recognize the significance of this conference in fostering international collaboration, knowledge exchange, and professional development. We encourage the participation of delegates from diverse healthcare sectors, academic institutions, and regulatory bodies to contribute to these important discussions.

Aston University is proud to serve as the **official host** of this esteemed international gathering. We look forward to welcoming all delegates to **Birmingham, UK**, for an enriching and impactful conference experience. Should you require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact us.



Yours Faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Philip A Begg', is centered within a light blue rectangular box.

**Professor Philip A Begg**  
Programme Director

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## "Milestones that Shaped the Global Voice: A Journey Through GACOPA Conferences"

2019 | Accra, Ghana: Where it all began. A bold call for unity in advancing UHC through collaboration, it gave us purpose



2020 | Kigali, Rwanda: Resilience in a pandemic. Reaffirming the frontline role of COs & PAs in primary healthcare. Tested our resolve





2023 | Putrajaya, Malaysia: The global leap. Asia embraced the mission—bridging continents through competency. Expanded our reach



2024 | Gaborone, Botswana: Our strongest voice yet. A continental crescendo for global health excellence. Expanded our voice






2025 | Birmingham: UK - The global stage. Where legacy meets leadership—towards full recognition of a global cadre.

## Join Us in Birmingham!

Be part of this historic moment at Aston University as we shape the future of Clinical Officers and Physician Associates globally.

### For Registration and Details

-  [www.gacopa.org](http://www.gacopa.org)
-  [info@gacopa.org](mailto:info@gacopa.org)
-  [conference@gacopa.org](mailto:conference@gacopa.org)

**Registration is available** on the aston university payment portal  
<https://store.aston.ac.uk/conferences-and-events/health-and-life-sciences/lhs-conferences/gacopa-5th-international-delegates-and-scientific-conference-2025>  
and the gacopa website [www.gacopa.org](http://www.gacopa.org)





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**AUGUST 27- AUGUST 30, 2025**

Aston University, Birmingham UK