



Conference Program

Chicago, Illinois

July 16-19, 2025

Theme: The 2025 TPSR Alliance meeting theme is “Sweet Home Chicago: Moving Forward without Losing Sight of Our Past.” This will be the first meeting hosted in Chicago since Don Hellison’s passing in 2018. It will provide us with an opportunity to share recent progress and plan the next steps while also celebrating our roots.

To learn more about TPSR and the Alliance, visit our new website at www.tpsralliance.org.

Organizers: Drs. Paul Wright and Karisa Kuipers from the Physical Activity and Life Skills (PALS) Group at Northern Illinois University (NIU) have led the organizing team, which includes Drs. Gloria Balague (retired from University of Illinois), Cody Sanders (University of Virginia’s College at Wise), and Claire Newman (Wake Forest University).

Location: Conference sessions during the day on Thursday and Friday (17th and 18th) will be at the Physical Education Building (PEB) at the University of Illinois at Chicago campus - 901 Roosevelt Road. We will primarily be in room PEB 117. This is the building where Don Hellison was based for most of the years he worked in Chicago and the site of most of the early TPSR Alliance meetings.

This places us near Chicago’s downtown area and many popular TPSR hangouts in the Greektown and Little Italy neighborhoods. At the end of this program, several restaurants, cafés, bars, and cultural sites are noted for participants who want to explore more of what Chicago has to offer.

Registration: Registration is required so we can maintain an accurate head count. The cost will be \$100 for professionals and \$25 for students. Please [complete the registration form](#) if you plan to attend.

Lodging: Participants will pay for their own lodging. We recommend the following two hotels for conference participants. Both are near the scheduled events.

Crowne Plaza
Chicago West Loop
25 South Halsted Street
Chicago, Illinois 60661
1-800-972-2494

OR

Marriott Courtyard Chicago
at Medical District/UIC
625 S Ashland Ave
Chicago, IL 60607
1-312-491-1234

Meals: The Friday evening conference dinner (at Greek Islands) as well as refreshments at meeting breaks will be provided.

Greek Islands Address: 200 S Halsted St, Chicago, IL 60661

Participants will plan and pay for other meals on their own.

Overview: This year's program will feature university professors, graduate students, and practitioners applying TPSR in a wide range of settings. We will learn about TPSR initiatives in countries such as New Zealand, Singapore, South Korea, Belize, and the U.S. We will honor two new Hellison Award recipients and have opportunities to discuss the 4th edition of Don Hellison's landmark text as well as the new TPSR Alliance website.

We will begin with a welcome reception at the Crowne Plaza hotel bar at 6 p.m. on Wednesday (7/16). Conference sessions occur during the day on Thursday (7/17) and Friday (7/18) in the Physical Education Building on UIC's campus, starting at 9 a.m. each day and finishing before 5 p.m. The conference dinner on Friday (7/18) evening will be at 7 p.m. at the Greek Islands restaurant. Saturday (7/19) morning will be an opportunity for debriefing and wrapping up.

In keeping with the tradition that Don Hellison and Gloria Balague established when founding the Alliance, presentations will be informal and interactive. We want to highlight the experiences and insights of presenters and use those as a springboard for conversation among participants. We also strive to keep a balance between research (theory) and practice so that all members of the Alliance feel engaged. Finally, we strive to create a relaxed social environment where people can focus on informal interactions and relationship building.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Wednesday, July 16th

Many travelers will be arriving on this day. Those who can are welcome to gather at 6 p.m. in the Crowne Plaza Hotel lobby bar.

Thursday, July 17th (9 a.m. to approx. 4:30 p.m.)

Morning session #1: Welcome and opening remarks with Gloria Balague, Tom Martinek, Dave Walsh, and Paul Wright.

Ice breaker activity & break

Morning session #2: Emerson Baptiste, Northern Illinois University. Promoting positive youth development through sport in Belize.

Lunch

Afternoon session #1: Cody Sanders, University of Virginia's College at Wise. Transfer: The impact of the TPSR Alliance and the power of global collaboration.

Break

Afternoon session #2: Karen Puckett, Cooperative Association for Special Education. Implementing TPSR with students who have disabilities.

Adjourn

Friday, July 18th (9 a.m. to approx. 4:30 p.m.)

Icebreaker activity

Morning session #1: Hellison Award Winners Samantha Cameron and Dawn Torrance, Lincoln School, Macomb, Illinois. Integrating TPSR into an elementary physical education program.

Break

Morning session #2: Yongsun Lee, Korea Science Academy, South Korea. Early Reflections on Infusing TPSR Ideas and Strategies at Korea Science Academy of KAIST for the Gifted.

Lunch

Afternoon session #1: Hanif Abdul Rahman, Ministry of Education, Singapore. From Intentionality to Impact: Infusing 21st Century Competencies through Affective Learning Opportunities in Physical Education.

Break

Afternoon session #2: Tanner Wheat, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.
Implementation and evaluation of a TPSR summer camp for underserved youth.

Adjourn

Conference dinner: Greek Islands restaurant at 7 p.m. on Halsted Street.

Saturday, July 19th (9:30 a.m. to approx. 11:30 a.m.)

Morning Session Part 1: Tom Martinek and Paul Wright. Discussion of the 4th edition of Teaching Personal and Social Responsibility.

Short Break

Morning Session Part 2: TPSR Town Hall for feedback and discussion on the new TPSR Alliance website, the conference, and future plans.

Adjourn, farewell and safe travels

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Of course, Chicago has an infinite number of places and events to explore. However, here we are listing several that are easy to access and give you a little bit of Chicago culture if you plan to extend your trip or venture out with your down time.

Food and Beverage

Here are several options popular with Don and early Alliance members. All are close to the UIC campus but note those in Greektown will be closer to the Crowne Plaza and the ones in Little Italy will be closer to the Marriott.

Al's Italian Beef (in Little Italy)

1079 W Taylor St, Chicago, IL 60607, USA
(312) 226-4017

Demitasse Café (formerly Jamoch's, in Little Italy)

1066 W. Taylor St, Chicago, IL 60607
(312) 226-7666

Dugans (Irish Pub, in Greektown)

128 S Halsted St, Chicago, IL 60661
(312) 421-7191

Giordano's (Chicago style deep dish pizza, in Greektown)

815 W Van Buren St, Chicago, IL 60607
(312) 421-1221

Greek Islands (the site of our conference dinner, near Crowne Plaza)

200 S Halsted St, Chicago, IL 60661
(312) 782-9855
greekislands.net

Little Joe's (neighborhood bar in Little Italy, site of Don's POETS meetings)

1041 West Taylor Street, Chicago, Illinois 60607, United States
(312) 600-9469

Manny's Cafeteria & Delicatessen (old fashioned deli, near PEB on UIC campus)

1141 S. Jefferson St, Chicago, IL 60607
<https://www.mannysdeli.com/>

Mario's Italian Lemonade (classic Little Italy walk-up Italian ice stand)

1068 W Taylor St, Chicago, IL 60607
marioslemonade.com

Pompei Restaurant (Italian restaurant, Little Italy)

1531 W Taylor St, Chicago, IL 60607
(312) 421-5179

Tuscany (slightly more upscale Italian restaurant, in Little Italy)
1014 W Taylor St, Chicago, IL 60607
(312) 829-1990
tuscanychicago.com

Chicago Cultural Outings

Especially for those who are looking for excursions before or after the conference, here are a few of the amazing cultural sites in Chicago that are easy to access from our downtown location.

Art Institute of Chicago

Michigan Avenue
111 South Michigan Avenue
<https://www.artic.edu/>

Buddy Guy's Legends (classic Chicago Blues club)

700 S Wabash Ave, Chicago, IL 60605
(312) 427-1190
buddyguy.com

Chicago's Chinatown

2206 S Wentworth Ave, Chicago, IL 60616
(312) 225-6198

Chicago Cubs v. Boston Red Sox at Wrigley Field

Saturday the 19th at 6:15 p.m. or Sunday the 20th at 1:20 p.m.
<https://www.mlb.com/cubs/schedule/2025-07>

Chicago River Boat Architectural Tours

<https://architecturetourchicago.com/>

Field Museum of Natural History (on Lake Michigan next to Shedd Aquarium)

1400 S. DuSable Lake Shore Drive, Chicago, IL 60605
<https://www.fieldmuseum.org/>

Navy Pier (historic landmark on Lake Michigan, food, entertainment, etc)

600 E. Grand Ave., Chicago, IL 60611
www.navypier.org

Shedd Aquarium (on Lake Michigan, next to Field Museum)

1200 S. DuSable Lake Shore Dr, Chicago, IL, 60605
www.sheddaquarium.org