

Bureau of International Osteopathic Medicine: Global Health Abstract Competition

The global health outreach category allows for students to submit abstracts about global health outreach activities that involved meaningful insights into global health but that do not meet the standards to be included in the research category.

Eligibility

The competition includes any global health outreach work undertaken through or in collaboration with any college of osteopathic medicine or residency program in the United States, including activities done for credit, professional advancement, and personal enrichment. Authors of the abstracts must have been directly involved with the activities, as detailed below.

This category allows abstracts that

- Describe healthcare activities undertaken during global health outreach trips,
- Reflect on global health theories, philosophies, or methods as applied to global trips,
- Give critical feedback on approaches to aspect(s) to global health outreach, and
- Present case studies of particular communities or the health programs taken therein.

This category does not allow abstracts that

- Promote upcoming global health outreach trips, groups, or businesses
- Focus on faith-based activities occurring within a global health outreach group.
- Offer personal narratives, travelogues, blog posts, or “I statement”-focused accounts.

As with all other competition categories, these abstracts must describe projects that

- Were completed in a low- or middle-income country, in resource-constrained settings or with under-served populations, and
- Occurred between September 1, 2016, and August 31, 2017.

Ethics

Unlike research abstracts, there is no codified review process for global health outreach activities and abstracts. This category includes activities that do not meet the standard for research as defined by Internal Review Boards (IRB) and their underlying federal regulations.

Despite the lack of IRB approval, we ask that all participants remain sensitive to the need for ethical approaches to communities with whom activities are done. These include seeking consent from appropriate authorities before any global health outreach activities are performed; avoiding activities that a reasonable IRB would not approve, such as those that create excessive risk to participants; and omitting names and other protected health identifiers from data and from written documentation of activities. Please work with the leaders of your global health activities to ensure reasonable ethical standards are appropriately enacted throughout.

Who is an Author?

For this competition, the person who drafts the abstract must be an osteopathic medical student or resident. This author's name must be placed first on the list of authors in the submission.

Global health outreach abstracts are not subject to the same ethical review protocols as research abstracts, but authorship can nonetheless be granted on similar bases. All listed authors should have

1. Substantially contributed to the conception and design of global health activities; and

2. Drafted the abstract and/or participating in revising its intellectual content; and
3. Gave final approval for version submitted to the competition; and
4. Agreed to be accountable for all aspects of the abstract, including with respect to questions related to accuracy or integrity of the global health activities and abstract

Notes: this standard effectively blocks authors from being added after outreach is completed. Please work with leaders of the global health activities to ensure author listings are appropriate.

Writing the Abstract

Global health outreach abstracts have fewer established formalities than research abstracts. However, the formatting and ordering of information familiar from research papers (Introduction, Methods, Results, and Discussion, or IMRD) can be used as a starting point to organize a global health outreach abstract. This approach is described below.

Introduction/Background

- Describe the trip's location, participants, and purpose.
- Describe the local population, their socioeconomic and/or environmental conditions, and their health needs as it pertained to the trip purpose.
- Include any relevant epidemiological or sociological information that informed the trip's purpose, location, and techniques.

Methods/Description of Project

- Describe the healthcare services or health-related interventions that trip participants engaged in, including techniques, equipment, and (where pertinent) underlying theories or philosophies.

Results

- What were relevant outcomes, including important successes or failures? Describe these in qualitative terms, and to the extent feasible, quantitatively.

Discussion

- Why is this result important to share?
- What feedback should be integrated into future global health outreach trips?
- If this finding is the basis for future research studies, what would be the testable hypotheses or key research questions?
- If this finding has policy implications, discuss these.

Additional Instructions

Formatting and Word Count

- Please limit the length of the abstract to 500 words, title and author list excepted. Excessively lengthy abstracts will be disqualified.
- Please do not attach additional information, such as copies of surveys. This will be discarded prior to the abstract being sent to the judging panel.
- Please use Times New Roman font in 12-point size, single-spaced, with normal margins.
- Headings within the abstract are acceptable, but are not required.

Citations and References

- Abstracts do not typically include citations or references.
- Parenthetical phrases with authors' names and years of previous research (i.e., "Smith, et al., 2015") are acceptable in sparing use. They will be included in the word count.

- Please do not include footnotes or references with superscript numbering (i.e., ¹).
- Please do not include any hyperlinks.

What to Include in Abstracts, by Competition Category

Item	Research	Outreach	Notes
Title of abstract	X	X	
Names of authors	X	X	Please see note "Who is an Author?"
COM name	X	X	
Internal Review Board approval ID number	X		Please attach or send link to IRB approval letter.
Location of Project	X	X	Can be integrated into main text of abstract.
Background		X	Please see description
Description of Work		X	Please see description
Introduction	X		As per IMRAD standards
Methods	X		As per IMRAD standards
Results	X	X	As per IMRAD standards
Discussion	X	X	As per IMRAD standards

How to Submit

To submit an abstract, follow the link on the BIOM webpage to the submission portal.

Deadline

The deadline for this competition is September 5, 2017, at 11:59 PM Central Standard Time. Winners will be announced on September 15, 2017, and the BIOM Seminar will be held on October 6-8, 2017, in Philadelphia, PA, in coordination with the 2017 OMED Conference.