
Bureau of International Osteopathic Medicine: Research Abstract Competition

The annual BIOM research abstract competition exists to help encourage and reward osteopathic medical students and residents who engage in international health research. This competition accepts abstracts conveying findings from research conducted in the past year.

Eligibility

The research category includes any project using quantitative, qualitative, or mixed methods to collect evidence of or test a hypothesis about any aspect of global health. This includes

- Randomized controlled trials, case-control studies, and all other interventional research.
- Epidemiological, ethnographic, and all other forms of observational research.

It does not include

- Case studies or other descriptions of single clinical cases;
- Meta-analyses of existing literature on a global health topic; and
- Any other articles that do not present original data.

All abstracts must describe projects completed in a low- or middle-income country, in resource-constrained settings or with under-served populations. Data collection must have occurred between September 1, 2016, and August 31, 2017.

Research submitted for this competition can be one outcome of a larger research program with multiple associated personnel, data collection activities, datasets, or publications. A particular scope of research, endpoint, or specific result is *not* an eligibility requirement.

However, all abstracts must include one or more osteopathic medical students or residents as authors. (Additional authors can be associated with any tertiary educational institution or healthcare facility and may have any other educational or professional qualification.)

All submitted materials must be previously unpublished.

Ethical Review

All research abstracts must verify that they have come from studies that received Internal Review Board (IRB) approval via an appropriate educational institute, healthcare entity, or governmental organization. Any research abstract that omits evidence of IRB approval will be disqualified. Please see the BIOM webpage for further information on IRB requirements.

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 should come first on the author list submitted to the competition, even if related papers would place that individual's name elsewhere in a list of authors.

Our standard of who else may be included as an author is based on the *International Committee of Medical Journal Editors' "Recommendations for the Conduct, Reporting, Editing, and Publication of Scholarly Work in Medical Journals,"* which is consistent with federal regulations:

"The ICMJE recommends that authorship be based on the following 4 criteria:

1. Substantial contributions to the conception or design of the work; or the acquisition, analysis, or interpretation of data for the work; and
2. Drafting the work or revising it critically for important intellectual content; and

3. Final approval of the version to be published; and
4. Agreement to be accountable for all aspects of the work in ensuring that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved.”

Note that authors can rarely be added after data collection is complete. Please consult your university's Internal Review Board for additional information and training if needed.

Writing the Abstract

Abstracts on published research studies might not seem to have a formal structure, but the papers themselves do. The majority of health research studies in academic journals comply with a standard known as IMRAD, an acronym for Introduction, Methods, Results, and Discussion. This basic format enhances the comprehensiveness and comprehensibility of research papers.

The most successful abstracts tend to contain the same basic format. IMRAD can be used to help write an abstract that contains all the information necessary to understand the research done. One efficient approach to drafting an abstract is to briefly answer the following questions.

Introduction

- Why was this study done?
- What is the nature and scope of the global health issue it addresses?
- What question did it seek to answer?
- If applicable, what is the hypothesis of this study?

Methods

- Who was the study population, and what population characteristics are important?
- How was the study done? How was data collected? Include locations, dates, and techniques.
- Add information on how data analysis was completed (i.e., specific techniques and, as applicable, statistical measures).

Results

- What did the study find?
- If this is observational research, describe findings in quantitative and/or qualitative terms.
- If this study included a hypothesis, note if the null hypothesis was confirmed or rejected.

Discussion

- Why is this study important?
- What do these results indicate about the health of the population studied?
- What future research is necessary to further illuminate the issue?

Additional Instructions

Word Count

- Please limit the length of the abstract to 500 words, title and author list excepted. Abstracts that exceed the limit 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).

Links

- Hyperlinks to IRB approval verification are acceptable.
- Please do not hyperlink to any other content.

What to Include in Abstracts, by Competition Category

Content	Research Category	Outreach Category	Notes
Title of abstract	X	X	
Names of authors	X	X	Please see note "Who is an Author?"
COM name	X	X	The name of the COM/residency of the first author.
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.