Department of Surgery Resident Research Day – Abstract Instructions

The 5th Annual Michael E. DeBakey Department of Surgery Resident Research Day Symposium will be held on Wednesday, June 7, 2017, 7:00 am to 12:00 pm, in the Denton A. Cooley Auditory at the Texas Heart Institute. The purpose of the symposium is to highlight the academic pursuits of the trainees in our department. All surgery faculty, residents, and fellows are asked to attend this important event.

All residents and fellows in the department are asked to submit a completed project, work in progress, or project plan at the symposium. Medical students, graduate students, and postdoctoral research fellows and also encouraged to present their work. Members of the research staff are also welcome to submit their work for inclusion in the program, but will not be eligible for awards. All abstracts must be submitted by 6:00 pm on Monday, April 3.

Scientific Abstracts
Scientific abstracts should describe either completed work or work in progress. Case reports will not be accepted. The goal of the symposium is to enable trainees to present their best work; therefore, abstracts can describe work that has been previously presented at scientific meetings or published in the literature. Although abstracts presented at last year’s Research Day cannot be resubmitted, new abstracts reflecting substantive progress in the same project are acceptable. The presenting trainee must be the first author on the abstract, and the abstract must reflect work done by the trainee. Trainees may submit more than one abstract as first author, but only one abstract per trainee will be selected for presentation. A committee of faculty members from outside of our department will score the scientific abstracts. The program will feature oral scientific presentations, quick shot presentations, and poster sessions. The top scoring abstracts will be selected for the oral presentation competition or the quick shot presentation competition; separate awards will be given for the best basic science and clinical/education research presentations. The top scoring student abstracts will be selected for the best student presentation competition.

Project Plan Abstracts
These abstracts should describe the plans for a project in clinical, outcomes, educational, or basic science research. Trainees should work with a faculty member to select and plan a project. Although abstracts presented at last year’s Resident Research Day cannot be resubmitted, new abstracts reflecting substantive progress in the same project are acceptable. The presenting trainee must be the first author on the abstract, and the abstract must reflect work that will be done by the trainee. Trainees may submit more than one abstract as first author, but only one abstract per trainee will be selected for presentation. Project plan abstracts will be presented as posters.

Awards for Best Oral Presentations
Faculty judges will score the oral presentations during the symposium. The winners of the awards for best basic science and best clinical/education research oral presentations will receive funding to travel to the academic meeting of their choice. Awards will also be given for the best quick shot and best student presentations.

Abstract Submission Instructions
All abstracts must be submitted via the online submission system by 6:00 pm on April 3.

Authors – List all authors contributing to the work. The presenting author must be listed first, followed by co-authors and senior author/faculty mentor.

Abstract – Each abstract is limited to 2000 characters (including spaces); titles and authors are excluded from this count. Avoid symbol fonts such as α,β,γ in your abstract; instead spell them out as in: alpha, beta, gamma. Abstracts must include the following four sections:

  Background – Describe why the study was conducted and state the objective and/or hypothesis. In abstracts describing planned projects, this section should convey the rationale behind the project.

  Methods – Describe how the study was conducted, focusing on study design, experimental techniques, and analytic approach. In abstracts describing planned projects, this section should describe the plans for conducting the study.

  Results – Present the major findings of the study. In abstracts describing completed projects, this section should include specific results of the study. Results may be supported by tables or figures, but these must be kept to a minimum.

  Conclusion – Summarize the major findings and their implications. In abstracts describing completed projects, this section should provide a summary of the findings and their impact on the field of study.

Avoid repetitive words such as “in” and “the” in your abstract. Instead, use synonyms to increase the word count. Dive deep into the topic and provide detailed information. Avoid abbreviations, acronyms, or jargon unless they are widely recognized and widely used.
Results – Describe the most important findings of the study. Quantitative results should be reported whenever possible. Abstracts can include one figure or one table. In abstracts describing planned projects, this section should describe the anticipated results.

Conclusions – Describe the conclusions reached based specifically on the study results and comment on the relevance of the study. In abstracts describing planned projects, this section should describe the potential impact of the study in the care of patients with surgical disease.

Tables and Figures – Tables and figures are permitted. If included, they will need to be uploaded as a single PDF document.

Scoring Criteria
A committee of faculty members from outside of our department will score all scientific abstracts based on the following five criteria:

Significance and innovation – Does the abstract address an important problem or question? Is the study objective or hypothesis clearly stated?

Study design and methods – Are the methods appropriate and clearly described?

Results and analysis – Do the results address the scientific question or hypothesis? Do the results reflect an appropriate analysis? Are quantitative data reported whenever possible?

Conclusions – Are the conclusions justified by the data? Do the conclusions relate specifically to the stated objective or hypothesis?

Clarity – Is the overall abstract clearly written and easy to understand? If used, is the table or figure clear and informative?

Please, do not hesitate to contact me, if you have any questions.

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