

## Michael E. DeBakey Department of Surgery Research Day – Abstract Instructions

We are excited to announce that the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual **Michael E. DeBakey Department of Surgery Research Day** will be held on **Tuesday, March 24, and Wednesday, March 25, 2026**. Details about the format and venue will be provided when we get closer to the time of the event. All surgery faculty, residents, and fellows are asked to attend this important event.

**Program Mission:** To highlight research conducted by surgery residents, fellows, staff, and students that advances patient care and treatment, develops future academic leaders across department of surgery divisions and affiliated hospitals, and reflects the excellence of faculty mentorship.

**Abstract Deadline:** Tuesday, January 1, 2026

### Eligibility:

- Department of surgery residents are required to submit at least one (1) abstract for the event.
- Medical, graduate, and undergraduate students who have participated or are currently participating in surgical research projects under the mentorship of Baylor College of Medicine department of surgery faculty are encouraged to submit their work.
- Department of Surgery postdoctoral research fellows and non-faculty staff are welcome to submit abstracts.

### Abstract Requirements:

- Abstracts can describe work that has been previously presented at scientific meetings or published in the literature.
- Although abstracts presented at previous years' Research Day events cannot be resubmitted, new abstracts reflecting substantive progress in the same project are acceptable.
- The presenting trainees or non-faculty staff must be the first author on the abstract.
- The abstract must reflect the work done by the presenter during the past year.
- It is acceptable to submit more than one abstract as the first author, but only one abstract per presenter will be selected for the program.

### Abstract Categories include:

1. Project in Progress (PIP)
  - Project in Progress should describe a project plan that **does NOT have applicable results but a study design available**.
  - PGY-1 residents and first year medical or graduate students are strongly encouraged to submit within this category.
  - PIP applicants are not required to be first year trainees.
2. Scientific Abstracts
  - Scientific abstracts should describe either **completed work** or work that is **currently in progress with applicable results available**.
  - Case reports will **not** be accepted.

**Abstract Submission Instructions:** Detailed instructions and a sample abstract are also provided on the online [Department of Surgery 2026 Research Day Abstract Submission Portal](#)

**Authors** – List all authors contributing to the work. The presenting author must be listed first, followed by co-authors and senior author/faculty mentor. All abstracts must include a faculty member as senior author; senior authors may be faculty members from other BCM departments or from other institutions.

**Abstract** – Each abstract is limited to 2000 characters (including spaces); titles and authors are excluded from this count. Avoid symbol fonts such as  $\alpha, \beta, \gamma$  in your abstract; instead, spell them out (e.g., alpha, beta, gamma). Abstracts must include:

1. **Background** – Describe why the study was planned/conducted and state the objective and/or hypothesis.
2. **Methods** – Describe the study approach, focusing on study design, experimental techniques, and analytic approach.
3. **Results** – Describe the most important findings of the study. Quantitative results should be reported whenever possible. If results are not available, describe the statistical analysis plan.
4. **Conclusions** – Describe the conclusions reached based specifically on the study results, comment on the relevance of the study, and/or highlight the potential impact of the study in the care of patients with surgical disease.

**Tables and Figures** – Tables and figures are permitted. Abstracts can include only one figure or one table. If included, they will need to be uploaded as a single PDF, MS Excel, or MS Word document.

**Abstract Scoring Criteria:** The program committee will score all scientific abstracts based on the following five criteria:

1. **Significance and innovation** – Does the abstract address an important problem or question? Is the study objective or hypothesis clearly stated?
2. **Study design and methods** – Are the methods appropriate and clearly described?
3. **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? If results are not available, will the anticipated statistical analysis plan appropriately address the scientific question or hypothesis?
4. **Conclusions** – Are the conclusions justified by the data? Do the conclusions relate specifically to the stated objective or hypothesis? If results are not available, will the project as planned provide a significant impact in the field?
5. **Clarity** – Is the overall abstract clearly written and easy to understand? If used, is the table or figure clear and informative?

A Basic Science and Clinical Research Review Committee will be assigned to score **Project in Progress** and/or **Scientific** abstracts. We anticipate that the program will feature oral scientific presentations and poster sessions. The top scoring abstracts will be selected for either the poster or oral presentation competition. During abstract submission, applicants will be able to decline selection for oral presentation. Thus, they will only be applicable for a poster presentation. Separate awards will be given within poster and oral research presentation categories.

**Awards for Best Presentations:** Faculty judges will score the presentations during the event. Awards will be given for the best basic science and best clinical/education research presentations.

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

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