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Bureau of International Osteopathic Medicine Research Abstract and Narrative  
Essay Competition Overview

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## 2019 Competition Announcement

### Bureau of International Osteopathic Medicine

#### **Osteopathic Medical Students and Residents: Enter the 21st Annual BIOM Competition on Global Health Research and Narrative Medicine**

The American Osteopathic Association's Bureau of International Osteopathic Medicine (BIOM) has just opened its 21st annual global health competition!

All osteopathic medical students and osteopathic medical residents in the United States are eligible to enter the competition's two categories:

- **Global health research abstracts**
- **Narrative medicine essays**

All entries must be focused on the entrants' experiences with global health and/or providing healthcare internationally. Schools/programs must review and attest to approval of each submission. Research projects must also have IRB approval.

#### **Prizes:**

Grand Prize- \$1,500

First Prize - \$750 in each category

Second Prize - \$500 in each category

The grand prize winner and both first-prize winners will be given the opportunity to orally present their work at the annual BIOM International Seminar in Baltimore, MD, in October 2019.

**[Submission deadline is August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2019](#)**

Visit the [BIOM International Seminar](#) section of [Osteopathic.org](#) to learn more about the competition and submit an application.



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## Bureau of International Osteopathic Medicine: Research Abstract Competition Information

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.

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 and 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., <sup>1</sup>).

### **Links**

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

## **What to Include in Abstracts, by Competition Category**

<b>Content</b>	<b>Research Category</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Title of abstract	X	
Names of authors	X	Please see note "Who is an Author?"
COM name	X	The name of the COM/residency of the first author.
Internal Review Board approval ID number	X	Please upload IRB approval letter.
Location of Project	X	Can be integrated into main text of abstract. (Must be international.)
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	As per IMRAD standards
Discussion	X	As per IMRAD standards

### **How to Submit**

To submit an abstract, follow the link on the BIOM webpage to the submission portal. Note that you must use the following format for your abstract title:

Research Abstract: (Title)

### **Institutional Attestation Requirement**

All submissions will be required to upload an attestation letter from their institutional leadership noting they have reviewed and approve of the submission. See sample.

### **Internal Review Board Approval**

For research project submissions upload of IRB review letters will be required upon submission.

### **Deadline**

The deadline for this competition is **August 16, 2019, at 11:59 PM Central Standard Time.**

Winners will be advised on **September 6, 2018.**

The BIOM Seminar will be held **October 26, 2019**, in Baltimore, MD in coordination with the 2019 OMED Conference.



## Bureau of International Osteopathic Medicine: Narrative Medicine Essay Information

The narrative medicine category allows for submission of essays of creative nonfiction describing their experiences in global health.

### **Eligibility**

Any global health outreach work undertaken through or in collaboration with any college of osteopathic medicine or residency program in the United States is eligible, including activities done for credit, professional advancement, or personal enrichment.

This category includes

- First-person essays related to global health work, including opinions and personal impact.
- Nonfiction narratives that describe specific circumstances, conditions, or events in the lives of specific patients, healthcare practitioners, or communities where global health work is done.
- Essays that incorporate reflections on public health or clinical care in a region with narrative insights into the history, ecology, economy, or society of that region.
- Vignettes that present multiple occurrences to illustrate a theme.
- Travelogues (chronological presentations of activities undertaken while traveling).
- Lyric essays and other creative nonfiction essays, as long as content is squarely focused on health in an international context.

This category does not include

- Promotion of global health outreach trips, groups, businesses, or organizations.
- Fiction or essays that include fictional content.
- Poetry.
- Projects involving collection of research data.

### **Format, Content, & Style**

Because creative nonfiction is by nature more free-form, subjective and personal than academic writing, there is relatively little advice on structure, style, formatting, and content. However, we offer these guidelines.

## Structure

- Any structure is acceptable. (For thoughts on how to structure a personal essay, look [here](#) and [here](#).)
- Any departure from chronological story-telling should be done purposefully.
- Limit experimental methods to what is necessary to tell the story. Plain-spokenness is appropriate in this category.
- Consider writing advice, perhaps from [Kurt Vonnegut](#) (with the caveat that he was mostly referring to fiction), [Elmore Leonard](#) (especially on avoiding “perpetrating hooptedoodle”), [Neil Gaiman](#) (especially the words “finish it”).

## Formatting

- The words limit is 1500 words.
- Use 12-point Times New Roman font, single-spaced, with normal margins.
- There is no need to include citations or references. Quotations are fine in sparing use.

## Privacy

As with research abstracts, it is inappropriate to disclose the identities of any research subject or patient. Please omit all names for persons receiving care or participating in global health as a recipient, and limit details that might allow the person to be identified.

- Bear in mind that colleagues, friends, and acquaintances might not want to be included as identifiable figures in your work. It is acceptable to use pseudonyms or omit names and identifiers for these individuals. Otherwise, seek permission from the identified persons before submitting the essay.
- Mark all pseudonyms with an asterisk (\*) at first use.

## Authorship

There are no strict standards for who may be considered an author of creative nonfiction. Generally speaking, these works have only one author, as they tend to involve the subjective perspective of a single writer whether or not that writer is at the center of the piece.

Generally, speaking, standards can be similar to those in use for research. Authorship requires:

1. Substantial contributions to the conception and design of the essay from the time of its conception;
2. Drafting the work *and* revising it critically for important intellectual content, including direct participation in every iteration;
3. Final approval of the version to be published; *and*
4. Agreement to be accountable for all aspects of the work, identical to the obligations of those submitting work to other categories of the competition.

Unlike research, it is not acceptable to give authorship to a supervisor, editor, or any other colleague who comments on, gathers information towards, or supervises the development of a creative nonfiction work. Please consult with the individuals involved

for further clarifications as needed. (Note: Winners may thank individuals from the stage at OMED.)

### **How to Submit**

To submit an essay, follow the link on the BIOM webpage to the submission portal. Note that you must use the following format for your abstract title:

Narrative Medicine: (Title)

### **Institutional Attestation Requirement**

All submissions will be required to submit an attestation letter from their institutional leadership noting they have reviewed and approve of the submission.

### **Deadline**

The deadline for this competition is **August 16th, 2019, at 11:59 PM Central Standard Time.**

Winners will be advised on or before **September 6th, 2019.**

The BIOM Seminar will be held **October 26, 2019**, in Baltimore, MD in coordination with the 2019 OMED Conference.



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## Bureau of International Osteopathic Medicine: Institutional Attestation Letter

To ensure that institutions are aware of and in support of international activity scholarly submissions to the BIOM competition, all applicants are required to submit an attestation letter from their COM Dean or Dean's designee, or from their Residency Program Director or designee. Please submit your completed attestation letter with your submission.

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is to certify that \_\_\_\_\_ (Name) is a student/resident at \_\_\_\_\_ (Institution Name) and acknowledge their scholarly efforts and intention to submit their abstract/essay to the AOA Bureau on International Osteopathic Medicine's (BIOM) International Seminar. I have reviewed their abstract/essay and approve of its submission to the BIOM competition.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Position \_\_\_\_\_

Institution \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_



## Peer Review Process

### **BIOM 2019 Abstract and Narrative Competition**

Abstracts that do not meet the eligibility criteria will be rejected.

Abstracts that do not document IRB approval, if applicable, will be rejected.

Abstracts that appear to be replicate versions of a single study will be rejected.

The peer reviewer may reject abstracts with numerous typographical or other errors, and you will not be given another opportunity to resubmit.

Each abstract will be reviewed by 2-3 peer reviewers. The reviewers will score the abstracts using a scale of 1 through 5 (1 being poor and 5 being excellent). Scores will be averaged to determine winners in each category.

#### Review Criteria:

- Please see the requirements for each category.
- Entries for research abstracts will also be evaluated on the following characteristics:
  - Originality
  - Readability
  - Reproducibility of research
  - Scientific method
  - Quality
- Entries for the narrative competition will also be evaluated on the following characteristics:
  - Originality
  - Readability
  - Engaging story
  - Critical thinking
  - Quality

#### TIPS:

- The abstract should summarize what will be in the poster.
- The first-named author should be the individual who conducted the majority of research. Co-authors should be listed in direct relation to the amount of research they contributed.

- Please review and proofread your abstract carefully to avoid errors before they are submitted.
- Winners will be invited to present their work at the BIOM International Seminar live session on Saturday October 26<sup>th</sup>.
- Other poster presenters are welcome to stand with their posters to discuss with conference attendees, but this is not required.
- Online registration to OMED is required if you will be in attendance at [www.osteopathic.org](http://www.osteopathic.org) under “Events” and “OMED”.