



RESEARCH and NARRATIVE MEDICINE ABSTRACTS

SUBMISSION ELIGIBILITY AND INSTRUCTIONS

Objective:	<p>The objective of the AOA's Bureau of International Osteopathic Medicine's (BIOM) abstract competition is to provide an opportunity for osteopathic medical students and residents to disseminate their global health research and narrative medicine experiences to a broader audience.</p> <p>The Abstract Competition includes a Poster Expo. The Poster Expo is an integral part of the Osteopathic Medical Conference & Exposition (OMED) experience.</p> <p>Students/Residents must indicate their interest in the Poster Expo at the time of their abstract submission.</p>
Guidelines:	See Page 3
Eligibility:	See Page 4
Deadline for Submission:	August 16, 2021 at 11:59 p.m. (CST)
Items Required:	Abstract (Online Submission Only) Signed Copyright Form
Submission Instructions:	See Page 3



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GUIDELINES

For the 2021 program the BIOM will consider abstracts reflecting work with migrant and/or refugee populations within the United States.

1. **Research Abstracts** must be a clinical, basic science or health services study. 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All submitted materials must be previously unpublished.

2. **Narrative Medicine:** The narrative medicine category allows for osteopathic medical students and residents to submit essays of creative nonfiction describing their experiences in global health. The competition invites participants to submit short nonfiction narratives about their global health outreach experiences. 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, based on real events.
- 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.



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- 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 the content is squarely focused on health in an international context.
- They should be free of bias and not submitted with the intention to promote an organization.
- Should not report data from non-IRB approved projects.

This category does not include

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

ELIGIBILITY FOR POSTER EXPO

- i. The abstract must be authored by:
 - a. A student at a recognized college of osteopathic medicine or an osteopathic medical resident
 - b. All abstracts must be based on an international health experience
 - c. All research abstracts must have IRB approval
- ii. Students or residents interested in participating in the poster expo must satisfy eligibility requirements (a) and (b) stated above as well as the following:
 - a. Submit an abstract wherein the first author is a medical student at a college of osteopathic medicine or an osteopathic medical resident at the time the research is conducted and the abstract is submitted; and
 - b. Indicate the desire to enter into the poster competition at the time that the abstract is submitted.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. The information presented in the abstract must be original, not a duplicate, and not previously published in a peer-reviewed journal.
2. Abstract text is limited to 7500 characters, including spaces.
3. Do not use abbreviations, unless spelled out first, acronyms, footnotes, or references in the abstract.
4. Research abstracts should have a clearly stated:



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- a. Research Question(s)/Hypotheses (Please include, Specific Aims, if applicable)
 - b. Statement of significance. Osteopathic significance must be included.
 - c. Research Method (e.g., sampling, recruitment, participation, data collection, instruments)
 - d. Data Analysis
 - e. Results
 - f. Conclusion
 - g. Acknowledgment/Funding Source (if applicable)
5. Narrative Medicine abstracts:
- a. Any structure is acceptable. (For thoughts on how to structure a personal essay, look [here](#) and [here](#).)
 - b. Any departure from chronological story-telling should be done purposefully.
 - c. Limit experimental methods to what is necessary to tell the story.
6. The abstract should summarize what will be in the poster.
7. The first-named author should be the individual who conducted the majority of the research. Co-authors should be listed in direct relation to the amount of research they contributed.
8. Where applicable, institutional review board (IRB) approval **must** be noted.
9. After the abstract has been submitted, revisions may be made until the deadline. An email should be sent to the Department of International Affairs who can provide access to the file. Abstract authors may not be added, deleted, or the order of the authors' names be revised after the deadline.

ABSTRACT REVIEW PROCESS

1. Abstracts that do not meet the eligibility criteria will be rejected.
2. Abstracts that do not document IRB approval, if applicable, will be rejected.
3. 2-3 reviewers will review each abstract. The reviewers will score the abstracts using a scale of 1.0 through 5.0 (1.0 being poor and 5.0 being excellent).
4. Scores will be averaged. Abstracts receiving a score of 3.0 or better will be accepted. Abstracts receiving a score of less than 3.0 will be rejected.
5. **Research Review Criteria:**
 - a. **Originality and Innovation**
 - b. **Research Question(s)/Hypotheses**
 - i. Is the research question strong, logical, and clear?
 - ii. Does the abstract contain relevant background information and provide a clear connection to the previous literature?
 - iii. Is the project's goal clearly stated, concise, and provide relevance (clinical significance) beyond the project?
 - c. **Research Methods (i.e., sampling, recruitment, participation, data collection, instruments)**
 - i. If applicable, does the abstract provide a thorough explanation of the chosen methods?
 - ii. If applicable, are controls and/or comparative groups clearly discussed and included?
 - d. **Data Analysis**
 - i. Was the appropriate statistical and/or logical techniques used to evaluate the data applied?
 - ii. Are the data high quality?
 - iii. Are the data sufficient to address the research question(s)?
 - iv. Are the analyses clear, thorough, and logical?



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- e. **Results**
 - i. Does the abstract provide reasonable results that are strongly supported by evidence and tied directly to the research question(s)?
 - f. **Conclusion**
 - i. Does the abstract discuss relevance in a wider context (future research opportunities)?
 - ii. Does the abstract discuss any limitations of the study?
2. **Narrative Medicine Essay Review Criteria**
- a. **Originality**
 - i. Does the essay show Independent thought and constructive imagination?
 - b. **Readability**
 - i. There are little to no grammatical errors;
 - ii. The abstract is easy to read and understand
 - c. **Engaging**
 - i. Narrative story engages the reader
 - d. **Critical Thinking**
 - i. Information is relayed in an organized way that reveals the authors critical thinking about the topic
 - e. **Quality**
 - i. Level of value and excellence
 - f. **Overall Presentation**

ACCEPTED ABSTRACTS

1. Abstract decision letters will be sent via email to the first author.
NOTE: Abstracts not accepted for presentation are not published and will not be disclosed outside of AOA and the peer review committee.
2. **All decisions of the abstract review committee are final. The abstract review committee will not consider requests for appeals.**
3. **All abstracts will receive anonymous feedback from the reviewer.**
4. The first author or their designee must register to attend the OMED and must remit the appropriate registration fee.
5. A signed "assignment of copyright" form is required. The form is emailed after the submission of an abstract. Secure all signatures and electronic mail or fax to:
*Department of International Affairs
American Osteopathic Association
Email: biom@osteopathic.org*
6. If an emergency arises and the presenter is unable to attend, he/she must notify the AOA Department of Research and Development in writing before OMED that he/she will be withdrawing the abstract or naming a substitute presenter.
7. Primary responsibility for compliance with any disclosure or nondisclosure requirements resides solely with researchers and/or research sponsors.

COPYRIGHT ASSIGNMENT

1. In submitting an abstract, the author transfers to the American Osteopathic Association, the copyright and all other rights in the material comprising the abstract if the abstract is accepted. Co-authors reserve the



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following: a) all proprietary rights other than copyright, such as patent rights, and b) the right to use all or part of the abstract in future works of their own. The American Osteopathic Association, as the holder of the copyright on the accepted abstract, reserves all rights of reproduction, distribution, performance, display, and the right to create derivative works in both print and digital formats.

2. **Signing the copyright for an abstract does not prevent authors from using the abstract in an article and signing the copyright for that article, including its abstract.**

TIPS

1. The abstract should summarize what will be on the poster.
2. The first-named author should be the individual who conducted the majority of the research. Co-authors should be listed in direct relation to the amount of research they contributed.
3. Abstracts that appear to be replicate versions of a single study will be rejected.
4. Abstracts are not eligible for consideration if the manuscript of the abstract has been presented at a U.S. National or international meeting held in North America before OMED.
5. Please review and proofread your abstract carefully to avoid errors before submitting your abstract.
 - i. *If an abstract has numerous typographical and other errors, the peer reviewer will reject the abstract, and you will **not** be given another opportunity to resubmit it.*
 - ii. *If the author finds any grammatical errors before the review, the abstract may be withdrawn, or if the abstract is accepted and the author discovers errors, then the author or his/her designee may address the errors during the presentation.*
6. Online registration to OMED is available at www.osteopathic.org under “About Us,” “AOA Events,” and “OMED.”
7. It is strongly recommended that you procure all signatures on the copyright form and submit the signed form as early in the process as possible.