

Vignettes, Abstracts, and Posters, Oh My!
Faculty Advice for Success
September 15, 2015

Who?

- You!
- Your faculty mentors!
- Your resident/intern teams!

What?

- Abstracts—a formally structured written summary of a case or scientific study, usually less than 400-500 words
- Posters—a visual demonstration of a clinical case or research project. Usually submitted in abstract form first and then presented as a poster with additional information and visuals, including images, radiographs, histology results, graphs, etc...as appropriate to the context
- Vignette—generally applies to clinical cases, similar and overlapping to an abstract and a poster
- Oral/podium presentations—a select honor for the best of the best, ex. Instead of just presenting as a poster, you might get invited to give a 5-10 minute oral presentation
- Clinical vignette posters—patient cases (ex. From wards, ICU, consult rotations, or outpatient experiences)
- Research posters—basic research, clinical research, quality improvement

Where and When?

- Various society meetings or other conferences
- ACP (American College of Physicians) Oregon Chapter Meeting, yearly in November (Salem or Eugene)
- NW Regional SGIM (Society for General Internal Medicine) Meeting, yearly in early February (alternates between Portland and Seattle)
- ACP National Meeting (deadline early December—select abstracts accepted for poster presentations)
- Others, example subspecialty meetings with a research focus

Why?

- Excellent opportunity for scholarship!
- Excellent opportunity for creative medical writing!
- A great learning experience!
- A way to share a “GOOD CASE”, to share a great TEACHABLE MOMENT:
 - A case of a rare disease/diagnosis, a Zebra
 - A case of an unusual presentation of a more common disease/diagnosis
 - A case with an unusual complication of a disease

- A case with an unusual medication side effect
- A case with a diagnostic challenge
- A case with unique or complex management lessons

How?

- Ideally, substantial involvement in the patient's care and diagnosis/management
- Usually formatted as: Introduction, Case Description, Discussion
- See specific submission dates
- See specific word counts and other formatting requirements
- Poster printing through the OHSU media office

Insider tips:

- What am I looking for?
 - Ownership of a case
 - Good medical writing—don't omit a physical exam or HPI and just jump to a CT or lab result
 - Good writing overall. GRAMMAR!
 - A good story

Additional resources:

http://www.acponline.org/medical_students/competitions/abstract_competitions

http://www.acponline.org/residents_fellows/competitions/abstract/prepare/clinvin_abs.htm

<https://sakai.ohsu.edu/portal/site/225f25eb-349e-4ced-00cc-4ebe674759a8/page/4030626f-80d2-4ed1-9261-fd6f1d5612fo>