C. STUDENT POSTER COMPETITION

1. Students may elect to enter the poster competition. To be eligible, a participant must be:
   a.) A pre-doctoral student at an AOA-accredited college of osteopathic medicine at the time that the research is conducted, and at the time that the abstract is submitted.

2. The poster should clearly state the following:

   a.) Hypothesis:
      • State the primary objectives and scope of the study or the reasons why the document was written. Also, state the rationale for your research. Why did you do the research? Is the topic that you are researching ignored or a newly discovered one?

   b.) Materials and Methods:
      • Design: Clearly state the study design, identifying it as observational or experimental. For observational studies, specify the temporal profile of the study as prospective, retrospective, or cross-sectional. Other description terms such as cohort, case control, or survey should be used as appropriate. Blinding should be described where relevant.

   c.) Setting: For clinical investigations, describe the study site and/or,
      • Participants/subjects: Indicate the study population, study dates, inclusion/exclusion criteria, and method of sampling. If matching was employed, specify the criteria by which subjects were matched. If controls were utilized, identify them as concurrent or historical and/or,

   d.) Interventions/observations: For experimental studies, clearly describe interventions. The data analysis section should include the type(s) of descriptive or inferential statistical methods used. The observations should be a list of major data elements or outcome measures relevant to the study objective. Negative studies should be accompanied by a statement of power, beta error, or confidence intervals and/or,
      • For most clinical research abstracts, the following areas are specifically mentioned: research design; research setting; number of patients enrolled in the study and how they were selected; a description of the intervention (if appropriate); and a listing of the outcome variables and how they were measured. Finally, the statistical methods used to analyze the data are described and/or,
      • For basic sciences abstracts, include enough detail for comprehension about study or program design and methods, sample size, type, selection method, instruments, protocols, procedures, interventions, treatments, highlight new techniques,
validity, reliability issues, data sources, analysis, manipulation, techniques and/or approached used in your study.

e.) Results:
- Specify associations or differences between or among groups under comparison. Note total number of subjects or participants, number meeting inclusion criteria who were excluded, and number enrolled who were lost to follow-up. For those excluded, provide the reason for the exclusion. Next, list the frequencies of the most important outcome variable. If possible, present comparisons of the outcome variables between various subgroups with the study (treated vs. Untreated, young vs. old, male vs. females, and so forth). Numerical results should include standard deviations or 95% confidence limits and the level of statistical significance. If the results are not statistically significant, present the power of the study (beta-error rate) to detect a difference.

- For basic sciences, give a summary of the major and important findings, the data collected, the effects observed as informatively and concisely as possible. Statistics and significance levels where applicable. These results may be experimental or theoretical, just remember to make note of that in your abstract. Give special priority in your abstract to new and verified findings that contradict previous theories. Mention any limits to the accuracy or reliability of your findings.

f.) Conclusion:
- State concisely what can be concluded and its implications. The conclusion must be supported by the data presented in the abstract; never present unsubstantiated personal opinion. If there is room, address the generalizability of the results to population other than that studied and the weaknesses of the study.

- Basic sciences: your conclusions should in essence describe the implications of the results: why are the results of your study important to your field and how do they relate to the purpose of your investigation? Often conclusions are associated with recommendations, suggestions, implications for practice/research, and both rejected and accepted hypotheses. Highlight new relationships.
3. A team of judges will review each abstract and each competing poster during the poster presentation at the research conference. Students should be prepared to present their findings and answer questions within a limited time. Students will be judged on the following criteria:

   a.) Science
       a. Clear, Supported Hypothesis
       b. Background
       c. Methods
       d. Results
       e. Data Analysis
       f. Conclusions

   b.) Poster
       a. Layout
       b. Graphics
       c. Presentation of Materials

   c.) Student Presentation
       a. Clear and Concise
       b. Demonstrates Knowledge of Project
       c. Able to Understand and Answer Questions
       d. Statement of Osteopathic Concept Of Significance

   d.) Originality
       a. Reflects Student’s Original Work
       b. Reflects Mentor’s Work

4. Winners of awards are announced at the end of the poster session. Three first prizes of $500 and six second prizes of $250 are awarded by the Council.