Is There a Paper in Your Poster or Abstract?
Getting to the Paper, After a Poster

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1. Understand barriers for posters/abstracts to advance to robust scholarly submissions - & potential solutions

2. Recognize attributes of posters/abstracts that increase their value to the field

3. Review strategies that encourage writing
Agenda

Mini-talk   What happens to abstracts
Mini-talk   Key questions
Small groups Review 1 abstract
Large group  Compare comments
Small groups Review 2\textsuperscript{nd} abstract
Large group  Compare comments
Large group  Writing practices; rejections
Q & A
Think-Pair-Share

Share with the person next to you:

– Have you written up a conference poster or abstract for dissemination?

– What barriers did you experience?

– If you did not further disseminate your work, why not?
Afterlife of Abstracts

- ~50% Med Ed abstracts published w/in 5 yrs, SGIM 2009 mtg
  - Avg time to publication: 20 mos.
  - Abstracts w/ higher MERSQI score more likely to be published

- ~35% Med Ed abstracts published w/in 6 yrs, 2005-06 RIME & CCME mtgs
  - Avg time to publication: 20 mos.
  - Oral abstracts, presentations of completed work, multi-center studies, mixed-methods studies higher likelihood of publication

Egloff, J Gen Intern Med 2017; 30: 673
Walsh, JAMA 2013; 310: 2307
Reasons to Disseminate

Con
• Poster just to attend a meeting
  – Pilot project not designed to disseminate further

Pro
• Further discussion about important med educ topic
• Allow others to test new instrument or technique
  – Generate more validity evidence, best practices
• Personal satisfaction – recognition of good work
• Promotion
Barriers to Publication

• Orthopedic mtgs – 33% abstracts went to full publications

• Contacted authors w/o publication
  – Some had papers in pipeline, or papers rejected
  – 35% never submitted
    • Insufficient time to write 47%
    • Study still in progress 31%
    • Difficulties with co-authors 37%
    • Publication a low priority 13%
Potential Venues

• Clinical specialty journal

• Med ed journal

• Online repository of educational products
  – MedEdPortal - ALiEM, other clinical societies
  – POGOe

• Post publication peer review: MedEdPublish

• Avoid predatory publishers
  – For profit, hidden fees, little peer or editorial review
Key Questions to Consider

• What was the main purpose for writing this poster or abstract?
• Is this topic or project important, or of interest to others outside your institution or program?
• Is there a knowledge gap or evidence gap?
• Are there sufficient numbers of subjects?
• What is the overall methods quality?
  – Are the outcomes credible & appropriate to the intervention?
  – Does analysis of the outcomes show meaningful findings?
• Are there other, more credible explanations for the findings?
Small Groups – Abstract #1

- Read abstract
- Should this be disseminated?
- What can authors do to enhance success?
- Use worksheet & record your comments for sharing
Large Group

• Overall, should this poster go further? (show of hands)

• Tables’ specific comments
Small Groups – Abstract #2

• Read abstract #2
• Should this be disseminated?
• What can authors do to enhance success?
• Use worksheet & record your comments for sharing
Large Group

- Overall decision (show of hands)
- Tables’ comments
- What did you learn from this process?
Overcoming Barriers

Procrastination – overly busy lives

• Schedule time to write, regularly
• Use small bits of time - more successful than ‘binging’
• Start with the easiest section (Abstract? Methods? Intro?)
• Start writing when the project starts, not when it ends

Writing inexperience

• Find a mentor
• Or peer mentoring group
• Or create a writing group
• Make a timeline; stick to it
• Read papers in a med ed journal, regularly
Co-author Woes

• Decide writing assignments at start of project
  – *Start writing at start of project*

• Decide authorship order at start of project
  – *Assume EVERY project may merit poster, abstract, paper!*

• At start, decide actions that will result from lack of timely response from co-authors
Response to *Rejection*

- *First take your pulse*

- Read letter carefully
  - Paper may fit another journal better
  - Use reviews, comments to improve
  - Or, what do you need to do for project to be acceptable, to this journal, in future
    - Another iteration, comparison group, different outcomes, survey validity evidence, higher response rate -

- “Major revision” is *NOT a rejection!*
Can email jgme.org for advice
Questions, comments?

Thanks for Attending!