Department of Surgery Research Summit Abstract Guidelines

Word limit: 500 words

Title: Choose a title that clearly conveys the purpose, design, study population (depending on your area). This should be relatively short.

Introduction: Concise but sufficient information should be given as background so the reader can understand the statement of the problem/gap in knowledge. In other words, have a research question. Hypotheses or objectives for a descriptive study should be explicitly stated.

Methods: Provide enough depth and detail so the reader can judge if the methods you selected can answer your research question(s). The independent and dependent variables and sample sizes should be clearly stated. Include statistical analyses when appropriate.

Results: Provide major findings, including statistical significance. Help the reader understand the direction of the finding-for example, state if something was significantly higher or lower than the control group, not just different.

Conclusions: Reiterate your major findings. State whether or not your findings supported your hypotheses. Make sure your conclusions are reasonable and based on the data. Provide interpretation and significance of your findings. This is where you present the 'take home message.'

General best practices:

- Write in clear, short sentences.
- Use active, not passive voice.
- Avoid using jargon or too many acronyms/abbreviations. This puts too much of a cognitive load on the reader.
- Make sure you follow the same order of presenting methods, results, and discussion for each parameter. In other words, don't jump around.