



SONOGRAPHER AND STUDENT POSTER COMPETITION SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

OVERVIEW

The Sonographer and Student Poster Competitions encourages sonographers and students to further research in diagnostic medical sonography and their own careers by creating poster presentations of findings in Original Research, Literature Review, or a Case Study. Entries are evaluated separately for the two categories (i.e., sonographer and student).

ELIGIBILITY CHECK (REVIEW BEFORE YOU BEGIN)

To be eligible for the Sonographer and Student Poster Competitions, all requirements must be met at the time of submission:

Author Eligibility

Sonographer Category:

- All authors must be current SDMS members in good standing
- A maximum of four sonographer authors may be listed per entry

Student Category:

- All authors must be current SDMS members in the Student category
- The Program Director must be a current SDMS member in good standing
- A maximum of four student authors may be listed per entry

Submission Requirements (Sonographer & Student)

- Only one entry may be submitted per author
- Entries must be original and not previously presented, exhibited, or published in any format
- Submissions must be uploaded electronically (.pdf format)
- Submissions must pass plagiarism screening with a similarity score of 15% or below
 - Scores exceeding 15% may undergo manual review to determine if overlap is appropriate (e.g., citations) or constitutes potential plagiarism

Submissions that do not meet these requirements will not be considered for evaluation.

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SUBMISSION TYPES

Submissions must fall into one of the following categories and must not be previously published or submitted for publication:

- **Original Research**

An original research project is an extensive project that uses scientific methods to support the findings. The project begins by asking a research question or stating a hypothesis. Topics may include critical reviews of current research or clinical practice, descriptions of pathology or medical progress, analysis of sonography education, social science of health behaviors, current technology, healthcare management, and others.

- **Literature Review**

A literature review article summarizes the pertinent research findings that have been reported in textbooks and Journal articles. A systematic process needs to be evident as to how the literature was pulled (e.g., Keywords, terms, etc.) as well as the databases used to locate the literature used as part of the review. It provides a basic description of the topic being reviewed as well as current findings and theories. The value of a literature review article is its synthesis of the most current information.

- **Case Study**

Written accounts of the impact of sonography on patients with rare pathology, or unusual combinations of pathology are popular contributions to the JDMS. A case which includes excellent examples of normal anatomy, or the first reported visualization of normal anatomic structures, or the use of new technology may also be reported. Sonograms that clearly demonstrate the sonographic findings are included, as well as an account of the patient's symptoms, other diagnostic findings, treatment, prognosis, and a brief discussion of the disease. Most case studies should provide a comparison of the reported case to those that have been reported previously or to other modalities.

Authors are encouraged to review the [JDMS Author's Manual](#) for additional guidance on formatting, organization, and scholarly writing expectations for [Original Research](#), [Literature Reviews](#), and [Case Study](#).

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Your submission must include:

- Completed online application:
 - [Sonographer Poster Competition](#)
 - [Student Poster Competition](#)
- Documentation upload (fully anonymized with no author identification):
 - [Sonographer Poster Competition](#)
 - [Student Poster Competition](#)
 - All images/figures (if applicable)
 - Permission forms for any reused content (if applicable)

All materials must be uploaded together via the submission link. Incomplete submissions will not be reviewed.

SDMS programs and services are developed and implemented in accordance with the [SDMS Board Policy: Non-Discrimination \[B.5.1\]](#).

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POSTER FORMATTING

Posters may include images, illustrations, photographs, charts, and supporting descriptive or technical content. Emphasis should be placed on originality, technical quality, depth of topic, and relevance to sonography practice.

Poster submissions must meet the following:

- Submitted as an Adobe Acrobat PDF (pdf)
- Sized at 36" x 48" (landscape orientation) to ensure compatibility with standard display boards

POSTER STRUCTURE

Your poster submission must include the following components:

- Organized and appropriate for [Original Research](#), [Literature Reviews](#), or [Case Study](#).
- References support the article type in [AMA format](#), numbered consecutively, and all cited within the text. It should be recent, relevant, and peer-reviewed.
- Images, figures, and videos, including any required arrows or labels, uploaded as individual high-quality digital files (JPG or PNG preferred); in addition to being embedded within the poster.
- Screenshots from a mobile device of ultrasound images will not be accepted. Authors must submit the original, high-resolution image files exported directly from the ultrasound system. Images should not be captured via screen grab, presentation software, or mobile photography.
- Ensure all images are **HIPAA compliant** and free of patient identifiers (no names, dates, facility information).
- Written permission is required for any previously published material.

HIPAA PRIVACY STANDARDS

All healthcare researchers must be familiar with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) privacy rule and its implications for:

- Recruitment of human subjects
- Protection of personal health information
- Disclosure of scientific results

Regardless of specific IRB processes, it is necessary for all researchers to obtain written HIPAA authorization before publishing papers or making presentations containing Personal Health Information (PHI).

Any research results containing patient-level data should be reviewed to ensure that HIPAA identifiers have been removed, using the [De-identification Standard](#), and whether the information being published could be combined with other publicly available information to reveal the identity of a participant. Materials involving photographs, rare diseases, and highly publicized cases should be reviewed with particular care. In general, it is best to include the minimum amount of patient-specific information that is possible while still conveying details relevant to the findings, and to be broad in reporting (e.g., female in late twenties as opposed to 28-year-old female).

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EVALUATION CRITERIA

Submissions are evaluated based on:

1. Entry Requirement Compliance:

- All authors met all eligibility requirements at the time of entry submission.
- The complete entry was received by the SDMS before or on the Poster Competition deadline.
- The entry was submitted in Adobe PDF format.
- All protected health information was removed from images and captions prior to entry submission.
- References are provided in the proper format on the front of the poster.

2. Poster Submission:

Original Research Category

- A clear hypothesis is stated.
- The poster follows correct scientific methodology.
- Logical conclusions are drawn based on the presented evidence.

Literature Review Category

- The topic of the review is well-defined.
- Presented ideas are cohesive and goal-directed toward the topic.
- Logical conclusions are drawn based on the presented evidence.

Case Study Category

- The topic of the case study is well-defined.
- The content conveys an in-depth clinical significance, differential diagnosis, and a strong correlation with other imaging modalities.
- Logical conclusions are drawn based on the presented evidence.

3. Poster Content:

- **Title:** The title is clear and concise and clearly conveys the significance of the poster topic.
- **Format and Appearance:** The poster demonstrates excellent visual impact.
- **Mechanics:** Exceptional use of mechanics and is free of spelling and grammatical errors.
- **Illustrations, Images, and Graphics:** Are of excellent quality and are relevant to the poster topics.
- **References:** Are recent, relevant, and peer reviewed, follow AMA format, numbered consecutively, and cited within the text.
- **Originality and Innovation:** The information is presented in a creative manner and displays an interesting approach for discussion.
- **Depth of Topic:** The topic is sufficiently covered and gives purpose for sonographers, conveying a goal-oriented outcome.
- **Relevance to the Profession:** The poster clearly articulates a relevance to the sonography profession.

EVALUATION PROCESS

Submission receipt will be **confirmed within two (2) weeks** of the application deadline. Submissions that do not meet eligibility or formatting requirements may be disqualified.

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RECOGNITION & AWARDS

Competition results will be sent via email to all applicants by early August. All evaluator decisions are final.

The winners in each entry category (i.e., sonographer and student competitions) will receive:

- Monetary awards for first place (\$150) and second place (\$100);
- An engraved award;
- Recognition of the author(s) and institution(s) with the poster when displayed onsite at the SDMS Annual Conference;
- Two complimentary, transferrable tickets for each author to the *SDMS & SDMS Foundation Awards Dinner* held at the SDMS Annual Conference; and Recognition at the *SDMS & SDMS Foundation Awards Dinner* and in the *Journal of Diagnostic Medical Sonography* (JDMS), SDMS press release, and SDMS social media release.

EXAMPLE

For reference, an example of a prior winning submission is available [here](#). This example is provided to illustrate overall structure, organization, and level of detail. Submissions are not expected to replicate this format exactly but should reflect similar clarity, completeness, and professionalism. All submissions must adhere to the current submission guidelines and requirements outlined above.

POSTER DISPLAY AT SDMS ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Competition results will be sent to all applicants via email by early August. At that time, applicants will also be notified whether their poster has been selected for display at the *SDMS Annual Conference*. Posters may be displayed regardless of final placement (e.g., first or second place), provided all submission requirements are met. Attendance at the conference is not required for a poster to be displayed.

- Printed 36" x 48" (landscape orientation) to ensure compatibility with standard display boards
 - Tabletop displays are not permitted.
 - Author name and institution may be included on the printed poster.
- Authors are responsible for bringing their poster to the conference and for any shipping, storage, or handling costs. If unable to attend, a designated representative must manage onsite submission.

Additional instructions will be provided in the acceptance correspondence.