



SCIENTIFIC PRESENTATION COMPETITION SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

OVERVIEW

The Scientific Presentation Competition encourages sonographers to further research in the field and their chosen profession by conducting presentations that may address original clinical or educational research, literature reviews, case studies, best practices, or other areas related to diagnostic medical sonography. Authors of a winning presentation are strongly encouraged to:

1. Share with the sonography community through written publication in JDMS; and
2. Submit a course proposal based on their presentation for the following year's *SDMS Annual Conference* or a virtual event.

ELIGIBILITY CHECK (REVIEW BEFORE YOU BEGIN)

To be eligible for the Scientific Presentation Competition, all requirements must be met at the time of submission and presentation:

- The primary author must be a **current SDMS member in good standing**
- All co-authors must be **current SDMS members in good standing** (maximum of four authors per entry)
- If the primary author is a student member, the Program Director must be a **current SDMS member in good standing**
- Only one entry submission is allowed per author
- At least one listed author must be available to **participate in a virtual presentation** if selected as a finalist
- Research findings must be original and must not have been previously published, submitted for publication, or presented at a local, state, or national meeting
- The submission must pass a **plagiarism screening with a similarity score of 15% or below**
 - Submissions 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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MANUSCRIPT 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](#)
- [Documentation upload](#):
 - Two abstract versions:
 - **Original** (with author information on title page only)
 - **Evaluation** (fully anonymized)
 - Tables (if applicable)
 - 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.

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ABSTRACT FORMATTING

Abstract submissions must meet the following:

- Microsoft Word format (doc or .docx)
- Double-spaced throughout
- 12-point standard font
- 1-inch margins on all sides
- Clear, concise, and grammatically correct writing

ABSTRACT STRUCTURE

Your abstract submission must include the following components:

1. The Title Page

- Manuscript title: Your manuscript's title should be concise, descriptive, unambiguous, accurate, and reflect the precise contents of the manuscript.
- Author name, credentials, affiliation, and contact information

For example:

John Doppler, BS, RDMS, RDCS
Transducer Memorial Hospital
Dallas, Texas 75231
Phone: 123-456-7890
Email: jdoppler@sdms.org

- *Original version only; must be removed from evaluation copy*

2. Abstract (Main Document)

- Maximum 500 words

3. Tables (if applicable)

- Number tables in the order they are referenced in the abstract
- Include a concise title (10–15 words recommended)

4. Figures, Images, and Legends (if applicable)

- 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 main document.
- 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.
- Legends must:
 - Be listed together as the final section of the abstract paper
 - Clearly explain all symbols, arrows, numbers, or labels

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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).

ABSTRACT EVALUATION CRITERIA

Submissions are evaluated based on:

1. Abstract Topic:

- Is the topic original and interesting?
- What is the potential impact of the research on future advanced in the field?

2. Abstract Submission:

Original Research Category

- The abstract is well-organized and has few mechanical errors.
- The hypothesis was stated clearly and accurately.
- The study design and setting were stated clearly and accurately.
- The results were stated clearly and accurately.
- The conclusion is supported by evidence reported in the study.

Case Study Category

- The abstract is well-organized and has few mechanical errors.
- The patient signs and symptoms are relevant to findings.
- The discussion of sonographic findings are inclusive and relevant / present a diagnostic challenge.
- The diagnosis and differential diagnosis are included in discussion / present a diagnostic challenge.
- The discussion of pathology and treatment are included and relevant.

Literature Review Category

- The abstract is well-organized and has few mechanical errors.
- The discussion is relevant and logical.
- The information presented is accurate.
- The reviewed literature sources are of high scientific quality.
- The conclusion is supported by the content.

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ABSTRACT PAPER ACCEPTANCE AND PRESENTATION

Abstract 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.

The primary author will be notified **by the end of June** regarding abstract acceptance; non-finalists will also be notified. At least one listed author from the **top five** abstract submissions must participate in a virtual presentation to expand on the submitted abstract.

PRESENTATION FORMATTING

Presentations must meet the following:

- Presented in PowerPoint or PDF format
 - Google Slides, Keynote, or Canva presentations must be exported to one of these formats prior to submission.
- Delivered in English
- Limited to fifteen (15) minutes
 - Presentations exceeding this time limit or failure to participate will result in disqualification.

PRESENTATION EVALUATION CRITERIA

Presentations are evaluated based on:

1. Presentation Recording:

- Organization / flow.
- Depth of knowledge.
- Articulation and enthusiasm.
- Effective use of visual aids.
- References cited as appropriate.

RECOGNITION/AWARDS

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

Award winners receive:

- A monetary prize: First Place - \$250; Second place - \$150;
- A recognition plaque;
- Complimentary, transferrable ticket for up to four (4) authors of a winning entry to the SDMS & SDMS Foundation Awards event held at the SDMS Annual Conference; and
- Recognition at the SDMS Annual Conference and in the *Journal of Diagnostic Medical Sonography* (JDMS), SDMS press release, and SDMS social media release.

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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.