American College of Medical Toxicology
2017 Forensic Course

Opioids, Toxicology, and the Law: Medical-Legal Aspects of the Opioid Epidemic

Research Abstract Submission Instructions

Instructions:

The deadline for submitting an abstract is October 1, 2017 (11:59pm EST). Corresponding authors will be notified in early November.

“Encore” presentation of high quality research studies presented at other scientific meetings is encouraged.

1. Length limits:
   a. Title: 20 words.
   b. Abstract: 350 words
      i. Including section labels (Background, Research question, Methods, etc.)
      ii. Not including authors or author affiliations
   c. Author affiliations: Up to 2 per author

2. Deadline:
   a. Submissions will be accepted until 11:59 pm Eastern Standard Time, October 1, 2017. Late submissions cannot be accepted.

3. How to submit:
   a. Submit your abstract via email to: ForensicResearch@acmt.net
   b. Abstract review and author decision letters completed early to mid-November 2017.
   c. All communications will be made by email.

4. Type of Research:
   a. The ACMT Forensic Course welcomes all types of original research relevant to the forensic realm and the course theme of “Opioids, Toxicology, and the Law: Medical-Legal Aspects of the Opioid Epidemic.”
   b. For abstract scoring purposes, please classify your submission as one of the following:
      i. Research studies
      ii. Case reports
1. The definition of a case report is a study involving fewer than three patients with a similar condition, presentation, or clinical feature and that does not involve an a priori planned novel medical / scientific intervention.

5. Encore presentation of research studies:
   a. Toxicology research is presented at numerous educational/scientific gatherings each year. In an effort to provide ACMT Forensic Course participants with access to the best available new research, the ACMT supports “encore presentation” of research that has been presented at other scientific meetings, subject to the following policies:
      i. All prior presentation must be disclosed at the time of abstract submission (see examples)
         1. This includes prior presentation of partial / preliminary results.
      ii. Prior presentation concerns presentation at a national or international meeting.
          1. Presentation at local or regional meetings does not constitute prior presentation.
      iii. Research studies presented (or scheduled for presentation) between December 11, 2017 and December 11, 2018, are eligible for encore presentation
          1. Case reports are not eligible for encore presentation

6. Prior publication:
   a. Studies that have been (or are scheduled to be) fully published (manuscript form) prior to December 11, 2017 are not eligible for presentation at the ACMT Forensic Course.
   b. Research that has been published in abstract form only is eligible for presentation.

7. Style:
   a. Structure: All original research and previously published original research abstracts should contain the following sections, underlined in the text:
      i. Background: 1 – 2 sentences explaining why the research is needed.
      ii. Hypothesis or Research question: 1 sentence.
         1. Optional (but encouraged) for case reports
      iii. Methods: Succinctly describe your study methods.
         1. Begin with a statement of your research type (e.g. this is a randomized clinical trial; this is a consecutive-patient case series; this is a convenience sample survey; this is a case report).
         2. Include setting/data source, method of obtaining data, and statistical analyses used.
         3. Even a case report should have basic methods! See example #2.
      iv. Results: Present your key results.
         1. Statements such as “results will be presented at the meeting” are not acceptable.
2. Data tables are not permitted in the abstract, but are encouraged in the poster presentation.

v. Discussion:
1. 1 – 3 sentences, very succinctly explaining the significance of your results.
2. Where appropriate, state study limits here.
3. Do not present results in the discussion section, and avoid making statements in the discussion section that do not flow directly from your data.

vi. Conclusion: 1 sentence.

b. Statistics: Whenever appropriate, present the measure of central tendency followed by a description of certainty.
   i. If a comparison is not significant, denote with “NS”, not the p value number.
   ii. For parametric data, this is usually presented as measured result and 95% confidence interval (e.g. 150 mmHg (95% CI: 135 – 165 mmHg)).
   iii. For non-parametric data, this is usually presented as median and either range or 25th/75th percentile (e.g. median: 150 mmHg (IQR: 130 – 175 mmHg)).
   iv. For comparative tests:
      1. If the difference is statistically significant, at a minimum please present P value and test used (e.g. “mean pressure was 150 mmHg in the intervention group and 190 mmHg in the control group (P = 0.02, Chi-square).
      2. If the difference is not statistically significant, do not present the P value (e.g. “mean pressure was 150 mmHg in the intervention group and 155 mmHg in the control group (P = NS, Chi-square)).
      3. It is strongly preferred to also present an estimate of the absolute difference (e.g. mean pressure was 150 mmHg in the intervention group and 190 mmHg in the control group (95% CI for difference: 25 – 55 mmHg; P = 0.02, Chi-square)).

c. Abbreviations and units of measure:
   i. Please minimize the use of unfamiliar abbreviations.
   ii. The first time an abbreviation is used, define it (e.g. 400 least publishable units (LPUs)).
      1. It is not necessary to define common, units of measure (cm; mmHg) or other very common abbreviations (US; PC; IQR).
   iii. We strongly encourage you to include SI units with all measurements (e.g. 12 inches (31.1 cm)).

d. Tables and figures:
   i. Tables will not be accepted in abstracts, but are encouraged where appropriate in poster presentations.
   ii. Graphs, photographs, maps, and other figures are not permitted, but are encouraged where appropriate for poster presentations.
e. Fonts and symbols:
   i. Please use only symbols from common Microsoft or Apple system fonts.
   ii. Use italics to designate scientific names or foreign words (e.g. Crotalus, a priori).
   iii. Do not use italics or underlining for emphasis.

f. Proprietary names: Do not use proprietary (trade) names of any product unless necessary to convey specific information. Use standard/recognized generic names.

g. References: Do not include references in your abstract. It is appropriate to provide references in an eventual poster presentation.

8. Authors:
   a. All submissions must conform to the Internal Committee of Medical Journal Editors Authorship and Contributorship requirements, available here: http://www.icmje.org/ethical_1author.html.
   b. Author names should be listed as last name and initials, separated by commas (e.g. Rumack BH, Goldfrank LR)
   c. One author must be identified as the Presenter.
   d. For the purpose of the author line, we can only accept a maximum of 10 author names. For any larger consortiums, please include participants as an appendix.
   e. A maximum of 2 affiliations per author are permitted.
      i. Include: Institution, City, US State or Country (e.g. University of Sorghum, Smallville, NE)
      ii. Do not include department or division.
   f. If the abstract involves reporting of Toxicology Investigator’s Consortium (ToxiC) data, then ToxiC must be credited as an author using the following phrase: On Behalf of the Toxicology Investigator’s Consortium (ToxiC)

9. Funding support:
   a. All funding support must be disclosed.

10. Selection process and criteria:
   a. All eligible abstracts will undergo blinded peer review by at least three members of the ACMT Forensic Course planning committee.
      i. Reviewers are required to disclose conflicts of interest and recuse themselves from review of any abstract involving a personal, professional, or financial conflict
   b. Selection will be based on overall score

Thank you for choosing to submit your work to the 2017 ACMT Forensic Course!