

MedTox Shark Tank: Fellows-in-Training Research Forum

Frequently Asked Questions & Answers

“What is the MedTox Shark Tank?”

The MedTox Shark Tank is a forum where Fellows-in-Training present research proposals to a distinguished panel of medical toxicology researchers to provide constructive feedback to the presenters about their research proposals. This forum was rebranded as the “Shark Tank” for the 2019 ACMT Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) in order to award the two best presentations with a \$1500 travel scholarship to be used to present their research findings at either the 2020 or 2021 ACMT ASM.

“I don’t quite understand...what do I have to do and who is going to be there?”

The fellows-in-training who submit the best abstracts will be invited the 2019 ACMT ASM in San Francisco, to give approximately 12-minute slide presentations pertaining to their research projects. Each presentation will be followed by a 5-8-minute discussion and critique. The atmosphere is intended to be friendly and collegial, and is intended to stimulate academic creativity and to promote the completion of a scientifically sound research project. The audience will be comprised of any interested attendees of the ACMT Annual Scientific Meeting, but is meant to be enriching for the fellows-in-training.

“At what stage should my project be?”

Based on last year’s presentations, the stage of development varied from preliminary ideas to more complete projects with some data. By the time of acceptance of submission to presentation (~3-months) there will most likely be some progression of the proposal.

“My research project was presented as a platform at the North American Congress of Clinical Toxicology. Can I present that project?”

For this session, we would prefer that you don’t present projects that have reached conclusion, such as publication or meeting presentation. Preference will be given to those that have not presented their works at other forums.

“Do I need a mentor for this project?”

While not officially required, it is important to have some guidance on the proposal. It is also one of the criteria for the judges to assess if there is oversight in the proposal to ensure success.

“Can I use the award money to fund the project?”

For Shark Tank, the funds awarded is to be used strictly to support travel/conference fee/hotel to present their findings at the 2020 or 2021 ASM.

“Might somebody steal my research idea if I present it at the symposium?”

All of the participants are expected to conduct themselves with the professional and ethical standards of the ACMT. That said, if you are at the stage of thought on a research project that you can present it at this symposium, it is very unlikely that anybody else could catch up to you on the project. It is the tradition of scientific exploration that research is presented so that others may build upon it, and we do hope that the meeting will spark interest in similar research topics or methodologies.

“Who can I contact for more information?”

Your own toxicology fellowship director or research mentor is a good start for advice. However, the following individual would be happy to be of assistance, and to provide more information:

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