



**XXIX ANNUAL RESEARCH AND EDUCATION FORUM**  
*April 1-3, 2009*

**NEW GENERAL GUIDELINES**

**This package contains the following:**

**Guidelines for Abstract Submission**  
**Instructions for Abstract's Write up**  
**Instructions and Information for Presentations**  
**Guidelines for Abstract Evaluation by Peer-reviewers**  
**Guidelines and Criteria for Student's Competition**  
**Sample Abstracts**

**Deadline: December 12, 2008**

## GUIDELINES FOR ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

**Deadline: December 12, 2008**

**Introduction:** The package of general guidelines has been revised to assure that all faculty members and students have clear and concise information for the submission of abstracts and preparation of oral or poster presentations for the XXIX Annual Research and Education Forum. Please do the following:

- Read all the instructions and Guidelines First
- Do not assume that instructions, criteria and procedures are the same as for past forums or any other conference, association or convention.
- Provide all the information requested in the as part of the abstract submission process.
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**Authors:** An author may appear in more than one abstract, “but in one as first author”. **The first author must present the work at the forum.**

**Eligibility Criteria:** Faculty members and students are invited to submit their abstracts. Only complete and properly prepared abstracts will be considered for acceptance.

**Withdrawals:** Abstracts submitted before the deadline **December 12, 2008** can be withdrawn via an official written request to the Forum Organizing Committee. This abstract and its related information will be deleted from our data base. After the deadline, **December 12, 2008**, the abstract will enter in the evaluation process run by the Scientific Sub-Committee and **cannot be withdrawn**. Errors in selected abstracts must be acknowledged and corrected by the presenter during the presentation.

**Abstract Selection:** Abstracts will be evaluated by at least two or three peer-reviewers selected primarily from the faculty of the Medical Sciences Campus. Each peer-reviewer will send his/her recommendations to the Scientific Sub-Committee using the “**Criterios de Evaluacion para Resúmenes**”. The prime criteria of evaluation will be the quality of the research or education project as reflected in the abstract. Evaluations will be made according to the following criteria: general objectives and relevance to the central theme of the forum, congruency of the title with the content, information presented in accordance to the guidelines, relation with the areas of the forum, and inclusion of the elements requested in the general guidelines. The Scientific Subcommittee will submit recommendations to the Organizing Committee for final approval. The cut-off score for approval will be 35/50 (70%) The number of abstracts chosen for presentation, as well as the format of presentation, will depend on time and space availability during the forum. Special attention will be given to the inclusion of statistical analysis when deemed essential in research projects.

**Publication of Abstracts:** All abstracts accepted will be published **as submitted** without editing in the Abstracts section of the Forum’s Program and in the *Puerto Rico Health Sciences Journal*.

**Notification of programming:** **The first author will be notified via E-mail the status of acceptance of his/her abstract no later than the first week of February.** Selected abstracts will be assigned as oral or poster presentations.

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR PREPARATION OF THE ABSTRACT

**Deadline:  
December 12, 2008**

### GENERAL

- Read all the Instructions and Guidelines First!
- Submit abstracts **on-line, using the ELECTRONIC FORMAT only, NO other formats will be accepted.** All abstracts should be received **NO LATER THAN Midnight on December 12, 2008.**
- Begin the Title of the abstract at the left margin of the provided title box.
- List authors, capitalizing initials and first letter of last names at the provided authors and addresses box. Each author should be listed by department and institution. The addresses should follow the last author's name. Addresses may be abbreviated. See sample below.
- Start the text of the abstract at the left margin of the provided abstract box. The body of the abstract should be no more than **1650 characters**. The abstract box will not allow any character additional to the limit. We recommend that you write the body of the abstract in Word or similar program before entering in the abstract box. This will allow you to count the characters using a word count tool.
- **Proofread** the abstract carefully before submission.
- Submit your abstract in one of the following six contents areas:
  - Applied Sciences - the discipline dealing with the art or science of applying scientific knowledge to practical problems
  - Basic Sciences - Basic science research is the investigation of a subject to increase knowledge and understanding about it
  - Clinical Sciences - is the key step in translating biomedical discoveries into new approaches to the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of human illnesses
  - Case Study - A research method which focuses on the characteristics, circumstances, and complexity of a single case, or a small number of cases, often using multiple methods. The case is viewed as being valued in its own right and whilst findings can raise awareness of general issues, the aim is not to generalize the findings to other cases.
  - Education - Research examines the effectiveness of educational programs, practices, and policies, including the application of technology to instruction and assessment
  - Epidemiology - The main emphasis of research in the Epidemiology is on providing large-scale reliable evidence on the relationship between common exposures and common conditions of public health important
- The scientific Sub-Committee may re-assign the abstract according to its contents.

## TITLE

Use a short, specific title in upper and lower case letters that indicates the content of the abstract. Capitalize only the first letter of each major word, except prepositions, articles, and species names. Do not abbreviate compounds in the title of the abstract.

## CONTENT OF THE ABSTRACT

For the preparation of the abstract please follow these general guidelines:

- Capitalize the initial letters of trade names.
- Use standard abbreviations for units of measure.
- Other abbreviations should be spelled out in full the first time they are mentioned, followed by the abbreviation in parentheses (except DNA, RNA, etc.).

An abstract for a **research project** should be *informative* and contain. (Sample provided below complies with most of the evaluation criteria):

- A justification for the project
- A sentence stating the study's specific objectives.
- A brief description of the methods.
- A short summary of the results obtained. It is **NOT** satisfactory to say: "The results will be discussed"
- A statement of the conclusions.
- The source of funding must be acknowledged at the end of the abstract (i.e. NIH, MBRS, RCMI, etc.).
- Write the following sentence: "Approved by IRB or IACUC", if appropriate. (*Please be sure to include the protocol number and date of approval in the IRB/IACUC box the electronic format that appears at XXVIII Forum Web Page*).

## SAMPLE ABSTRACT FOR RESEARCH PROJECT

Effect of Valeriana officinalis Extracts in [3H]Glu Binding L. Del Valle, Y. Ayala and J.G. Ortiz

Valeriana officinalis extracts are known for their sedative and anxiolytic effects. The specific mechanism(s) of action responsible for its pharmacological effects have not been fully elucidated. The most accepted theory is that Valerian root extracts stimulate GABA inhibitory neurotransmission. Alternatively, relaxation and sleepiness can be produced if Valerian reduces the activation of glutamate receptors; ionotropic (iGluR) and metabotropic (mGluR) receptors. The objective of our study is to determine the effects of Valerian extracts preparations on the excitatory neurotransmission through [3H]Glutamate binding to mGluR and iGluR receptors. For this purpose, freshly prepared valerian extract (4pg/ml – 20mg/ml) was incubated with rat cortical membranes in presence of: [3H]Glutamate and different receptor agonists. Valerian extract (0.05 mg/ml) decreases the effects KA (kainic acid) but disappears at 10 mg/ml. In presence of NMDA, the Valerian extract (10 mg/ml) increases the binding. In contrast, in presence of LCCG it decreases binding in both concentrations. At (10 mg/ml) Valerian extract increases binding in presence of QA (quisqualic acid). Our data shows that aqueous extracts from Valeriana officinalis selectively interact with mGlu and iGlu receptors. The Valerian-mGluR-II interaction obtained is consistent with the reputed anxiolytic effect. (Supported in part by MBRS-RISE Grant No. 2 R25 GM061838-05.)

An abstract for an **education project** should be *informative* and contain. (Sample provided below complies with most of the evaluation criteria):

- A rationale for the project.
- A sentence stating the main objective and/or specific objectives.
- A brief description of strategies and/or activities.
- A short summary of outcomes obtained.
- A statement of projections.
- The source of funding must be acknowledged at the end of the abstract (i.e. HRSA, DOED, etc.).
- Write the following sentence: “Approved by IRB or IACUC”, if appropriate. (*Please be sure to include the protocol number and date of approval in the IRB/IACUC box the electronic format that appears at XXVIII Forum Web Page*).

### **SAMPLE ABSTRACT FOR EDUCATION PROJECT**

The educational and community impact of the development of the new Child Neurology (CN) Training program in Puerto Rico B.González, M. Vázquez-Correa, K .Cruz, J. Ríos. UPR School of Medicine, Child Neurology Training Program

The shortage of child neurologist specialists in USA has been well identified by the American Academy of Neurology (ANN) Workforce Task Force. During the past 20 years, the limited availability of child neurologists in P.R has affected available services and the training of both medical students and pediatric training programs. In order to deal with this concern, the CN Section of the UPR obtained accreditation to start a Program in 2005. This study evaluates the impact of this new program in clinical services provided at the University Pediatric Hospital (UPH) and the post graduate medical training programs. We reviewed the following areas before and after the development of the CN Program: the statistics of in-patient and outpatient services, the variety of diagnosis, the quality and quantity of educational activities provided to the Child and Adult Neurology Training Program and the integration with the community. From 2004 to date there is a 7-fold increase in the number of inpatient services and 4-fold increase in the outpatient visits. The number of applications for the CN training program increased from 1 to 6 in the same time period. There has been a remarkable increase in clinical services and diversity of diagnosis since the beginning of this program. The first graduate was certified by the ABPN, participates as CN Faculty and has started a clinical practice in a services deprived community. The presence of a CN faculty, a training Program, and a CN resident has provided a stimulating exposure and interest in medical students and pediatric trainees to pursue this specialty in P.R. and USA.

An abstract for a **case study** should be informative and contain. (Sample provided below complies with most of the evaluation criteria):

- A rationale for presenting the case
- A description of the case including clinical history and physical exam findings
- A summary of diagnostic and treatment protocol
- A summary of the treatment protocol
- A summary of the follow up and results
- Research questions generated
- The source of funding must be acknowledged at the end of the abstract (i.e. HRSA, DOED, etc.).
- Write the following sentence: "Approved by IRB or IACUC", if appropriate. (*Please be sure to include the protocol number and date of approval in the IRB/IACUC box the electronic format that appears at XXVIII Forum Web Page*).

### **SAMPLE ABSTRACT FOR CASE STUDY PROJECT**

Candida Albicans Meningitis and Brain Abscesses in a Neonate: Case Report. Ingrid M. Ancalle, M.D. FAAP, Juan Rivera, M.D. FAAP, Inés García, M.D. FAAP, Lourdes García, M.D. FAAP, Gloria Reyes, M.D. FAAP, and Marta Valcárcel, M.D. FAAP

Invasive Candida infection is an increasingly important cause of mortality and morbidity in the neonatal intensive care unit. Risk factors include birth weight less than 1000 g, exposure to broad spectrum antibiotics, parenteral nutrition, central venous catheter, preceding fungal colonization, intrauterine growth restriction, and pulmonary hemorrhage. Neonatal candidemia occurs in 4-15% of extremely low birth weight infants. Meningitis occurs in 5-9% of patients with candidemia. A few infants with Candida meningitis (4%) present ventriculitis or brain abscess. Candida meningitis and brain abscess are associated with significant mortality and severe neurological impairment. We report an infant born at 34 weeks gestational age, birth weight 2045 g, and history of premature rupture of membranes of 6 days, who was initially treated for pneumonia and suspected necrotizing enterocolitis. At 12 days old she presented apnea and seizures. Cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) grew Candida albicans in 2 cultures, blood cultures were negative. Head sonogram and computed tomography scan were negative. Brain magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) detected multiple brain parenchyma micro abscesses. The patient also presented endophthalmitis and hydrocephaly requiring shunting. She received 70 mg/kg total amphotericin B therapy and 65 days of flucytosine. This case confirms the need of obtaining adequate cultures including CSF when sepsis is suspected. Neuroimaging should be included in diagnostic workup of patients with systemic fungal infection. Improved neuroimaging techniques such as MRI may lead to earlier diagnosis of cerebral abscesses.

### **INSTRUCTIONS AND INFORMATION FOR PRESENTATIONS**

**Presentations:** Abstracts may be selected for oral or poster presentations.

**Oral presentations:** Will be limited to 15 minutes, 10 minutes for the presentation and 5 minutes for discussion. The discussion session will be monitored by the moderator of the session. Each of the rooms for oral sessions will be equipped with a video projector and a laptop computer. It is suggested that the presenter be at the room 15 minutes prior to the starting time of the oral session. The presenter will bring the presentation on a Windows readable USB flash drive, a CD-ROM or a 250 MB Zip Disk. If the presentation requires multiple floppy disks, please utilize PowerPoint's Pack and Go feature. When preparing your presentation, make sure to include in the same folder as your

presentation any external files utilized, e.g. movie files. Copy the entire folder to the disk. Review these specifications when preparing your presentation. It is recommended to bring a backup presentation format to cover the possibility of any technical problem.

**Poster presentation sessions:** Poster presentation sessions for research and education projects will be scheduled during the first and second day of the Forum. Each session will be one hour and a half long. The presenter should setup the poster at 8:00 a.m. and leave it until 4:00 p.m. However, it is required that the presenter spend the entire period of the assigned presentation time at the poster. It is suggested that the presenter prepare a short presentation (five minutes) to be periodically given to those assembled around the poster.

**Poster preparation: Purpose:** A poster is a graphically based approach to presenting research and education projects that should cover the KEY POINTS of the work. It should: attract attention, provide a brief overview of your work, generate active discussion and questioning during a short time frame. **Format:** The standard format for a poster is: **Title:** A banner with the title should appear at the top-center over the complete width of the board. Below the title, put the author(s) name(s) and institution(s). **Summary:** Shortly summarize the justification or rationale for the project, the methods, activities or strategies and the main results or outcomes, and conclusions. **Introduction:** Provide clear statements about the background of the problem and/or hypothesis and its relevance. Also describe the main and specific aims and objectives. **Methods:** Explain the methodologies, strategies or activities that have been used to address the problem. Also state and justify any assumptions, so that your results or outcomes can be viewed in the proper context. **Results:** Show the main results or outcomes. Use graphs, diagrams and/or photos. **Conclusion:** List the main findings. **References:** Cite only a few of the most important references. **Acknowledgements:** Acknowledge collaborators as well as the funding sponsors. **Further Work:** May include recommendations and thoughts about future work. **Design and Layout:** The poster must fit a board 4' x 6', but does not necessarily have to fill the entire dimension and must be oriented in the "landscape" position. A banner displaying your poster title, name, and department (or class, if appropriate) should be positioned at top-center of the board. Make obvious to the viewer how to progressively view the poster and read (from left to right, and top to bottom), by numbering the individual panels, or connecting them with arrows, a standard "guidance system" (see Figure 1 below). Leave some open space in the design. An open layout is less tiring to the eye and mind.

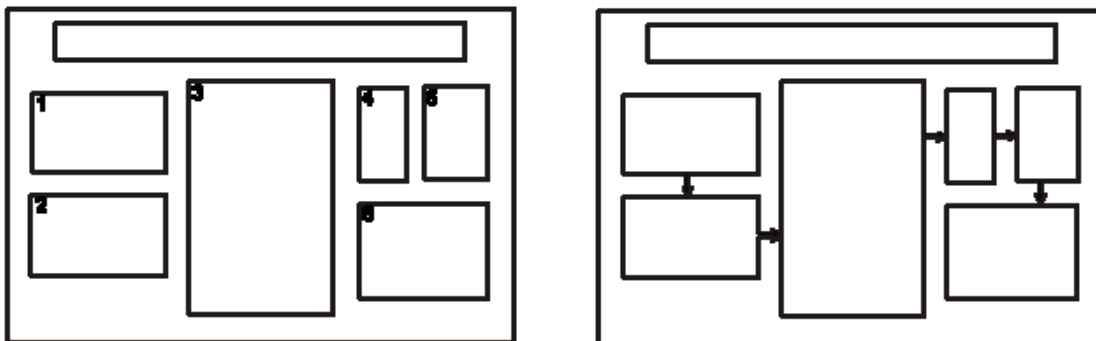


Figure 1: Conventional layouts for a poster. Long panel at top-center is title/author banner. Individual panels can be connected by numbers and arrows. Also, note the use of space between panels to achieve visual appeal.

**Graphs and diagrams:** A picture can replace lots of words. All visuals should be labeled with a figure number and title, identifying axes labels, units etc. Choose appropriate graph types (e.g. bar-graphs, line-graphs, pie-charts). Drawings and labels should be large and clear enough to be legible from a distance. Tables can be useful to present information concisely, not only statistical information, but also other categories. Make sure they are simple, and do not contain excessive information. **General Ideas:** The most effective posters provide minimal text and keep the material simple. Make full use of the space, but do not cramp a page full of information. Use headings to indicate each poster section. Use only pertinent information. Be selective when showing results or outcomes. Present only those that illustrate the main findings. However, do keep other results handy

so that you may refer to them when asked. Consider using "bullet statements" to make your points short and clear. The rules on text are "less is more" and "bigger is better." Limit the text to about one-fourth of the poster space, and use "visuals" (graphs, photographs, schematics, maps, etc.) to tell the "story." Colors should be used only to emphasize, differentiate and to add interest. Do not use colors just to impress! Equations should be kept to a minimum. **Poster preparation with Power Point:** Create a blank presentation. Go to File – Page Setup- set size to desired size (examples: 56"x 36", 48"x 36"). Posters can be printed up to 56" long, but they should always be 36" wide. Text font size should be from 16 to 30 and titles usually from 60 to 100. It is preferable to use **ipg format** to incorporate graphics to your slide. If a background is going to be used, it should be a light color or a mix with white.

## **GUIDELINES AND CRITERIA FOR STUDENT COMPETITION: AWARDS FOR ORAL OR POSTER PRESENTATIONS**

The student competition consists in the selection and recognition by the Awards Subcommittee of the Oral or Poster Presentations during the Forum by students in each of the following five categories.

1. Philosophy (Ph.D.) and Public Health (Dr. PH) Doctorates
2. Master
3. Certificates and Fellows
4. Professional Doctorates
5. Undergraduates

For the student competition evaluation criteria please refer to the appendix: Oral and Poster Presentations Awards Criteria.

A first, second and third prize may be awarded for those presentations that obtain the highest scores within the established scale (First, 47.5 – 50; Second 42.5 – 47; Third 37.5 – 42). However, in the case of more than one competitor with scores in the same scale, they will be awarded by priorities starting with the prize determined by the scale.

A vacancy will be announced in any of the categories for the following reasons: No competitors available in the category; the competitor(s) did not obtain the minimal of 37.5 points required for the third prize.

Medical Sciences Campus students will compete for award certificates plus seed money for expenses related to their research or education project. This money will be administered by the Medical Sciences Campus, Deanship for Academic Affairs. Students from other Universities will compete for award certificates only.

The awards will be announced and the certificates will be handed out at the closing session of the forum scheduled on **Friday April 1, 2009, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m., at the Amphitheater.**