Call for Abstracts
2016 Educational Conference
Omni Nashville & Music City Center
Nashville, Tennessee
September 4-7, 2016

Submission website open: December 4, 2015
Abstract Submission Deadline EXTENDED to February 10, 2016 (Midnight Central)
Online submission only: https://www.firmems.com/ascip

Academy of Spinal Cord Injury Professionals
The Academy of Spinal Cord Injury Professionals (ASCIP) is an interdisciplinary organization dedicated to advancing the care of people with spinal cord injury/disorder (SCI/D). Please refer to the Academy website at http://www.academyscipro.org/ for more information.

The objectives of our annual conference include advancing spinal cord healthcare through the use of scientific research and practice updates, promoting educational opportunities for SCI/D professionals, providing a forum for networking, improving access to quality healthcare, promoting quality of life, disseminating information, and encouraging SCI/D-related research. We invite you to submit an abstract for presentation at the annual conference.

Conference Theme: Staying in Tune with Trends in SCI
The 2016 Educational Conference will focus on cutting edge and innovative strategies to promote and achieve successful outcomes following SCI/D. It is essential for the professionals working in SCI/D to stay current with recent advances and technology. This conference will provide a venue to promote optimal quality of life as it relates to SCI/D medicine and rehabilitation.

Educational Topics Could Include:
- Activity based training
- Acute care in SCI
- Advocacy
- Aging and palliative care
- Assistive technology / Biomedical engineering
- Cardiovascular in SCI
- Chronic care in SCI
- Community reintegration
- Dual diagnosis (SCI & TBI, substance abuse, amputees / burns, psychiatric, polytrauma)
- Ethics and legal issues
- Lower extremity function and gait
- Metabolic / Obesity in SCI
• Motor control
• Musculoskeletal
• Other diseases affecting the spinal cord (MS, ALS, other neurodegenerative diseases)
• Pain in SCI
• Patient / Caregiver education
• Payment / Reimbursement Issues
• Pediatrics
• Prevention
• Psychosocial issues in SCI (diagnosis and treatment)
• Quality Improvement / Patient Safety
• Regeneration
• Research Strategies
• Respiratory in SCI
• Robotics and exoskeletons
• Sensory studies in SCI
• Sexuality / Fertility in SCI
• Skin Care
• Spasticity
• Upper extremity functioning
• Urology
• Other SCI related issues

Target Audience
The Academy’s annual conference includes healthcare professionals representing a variety of specialties involved in the management of spinal cord injury/disorder (SCI/D). Professionals attending include, but are not limited to: physicians, basic scientists and clinical researchers, physician assistants, nurses, psychologists, social workers, rehabilitation counselors, dietitians, therapeutic recreation specialists, speech pathologists, physical and occupational therapists, as well as residents, fellows, and students from various professions.

Submission Overview
• You do not need to be a member of the Academy to submit an abstract.
• Abstracts are intended to represent clinical practice, research or social policy content related to spinal cord injury or disease.
• Commercial content, product or service related advertisements are not permitted.
• The online system will accept submissions until midnight Central Standard Time on February 1, 2016.
• The Academy Program Committee, an interdisciplinary panel, will review all abstracts.
• The Program Committee reserves the right to decide on the date, time, and the format for all presentations. If you do not wish to accept the decision of the Program Committee with regard to the format of your presentation then you must notify the FIRM no later than May 15, 2016 so that the program can be adjusted and other submissions can be considered for acceptance.
• Notifications of acceptance will be made by May 1, 2016.
• If an abstract is accepted for presentation, the presenter must register for the annual conference. Registration fees are the responsibility of the presenter. Registration will be open by May 1, 2016.
• Accepted abstracts will not be returned for editing or proofing. Authors are responsible for ensuring that the text is accurate, concise, clear, and includes information about any sources of funding, if applicable.
• Individuals may submit more than one abstract.
• All submitted abstracts are required to meet CME/CE accreditation standards to be approved. They should reflect presentations that are fair, balanced and free of commercial bias.
For each abstract, you will need to submit/complete the following:

- Select Topic Category for your submission
- Session Title not to exceed 10 words (no abbreviations or acronyms)
- Session Description/Abstract not to exceed 2500 characters (includes spaces - approx 350 words)
- 1-3 measurable learning objectives using action verbs i.e. describe, explain, discuss, etc.
  - One goal for a 15 minute presentation
  - Two goals for a 30 minute presentation
  - Three goals for a 60 - 90 minute presentation
- When necessary, include a bibliography or cited references.
- Identify desired time of presentation (15*, 30, 60, 90 minutes)
  *Note: Scientific research papers will be 12 min with 3 minutes for questions.

  The maximum number of presenters for each time period is:
  - 1 presenter for 15 min scientific research papers
  - 2 presenters for 30 minute sessions
  - 3 presenters for 60 minute sessions
  - 4 presenters for 90-120 minute sessions
- Biography for all contributing presenters, not to exceed 150 words. The option to add additional presenter biographies is found after you click “Submit Abstract”.
- Identify all financial and non-financial support.
- Upon acceptance, a copy of your slides or your handout must be submitted to the Program Committee on or before July 15, 2016. The Academy plans to make PDF versions of the PowerPoint slides available to conference attendees, unless the presenter requests that slides not be made public. All slides must use the ASCIP template.

General Guidelines when Submitting an Abstract:

1. Examples of general statements not accepted include:
   - “The results of the study will be presented.”
   - “The significance of the data will be discussed.”
2. Research abstracted must be based on completed research.
3. Abstracts on completed research must include data analysis.
4. In the text, an abbreviated word or term must be spelled out at first use with its abbreviation or acronym in parentheses.
5. Research abstracts to be considered for publication in JSCM should include elements for publication and where applicable: background, research design, methods, results and, conclusions.
6. For interactive sessions there is the availability to utilize “clicker” for audience participation. Please identify in your abstract if you would like to utilize this feature.

Annual Conference Abstract Submission Presentation Formats (see complete descriptions below for each type of submission)

1. Platform Presentation (Only)
2. Workshop (up to 4 presenters plus moderator, must have commitment from all presenters before submitting abstract)
3. Poster (Only)
4. Platform Presentation or Poster

1. Platform Presentation
   - Platforms presented at other conferences or meetings will be considered, provided that the material has not been published as a full manuscript.
   - All research-based platform presentation abstracts accepted for presentation at the annual conference will also be submitted for review, and upon acceptance, published in the Journal of Spinal Cord Medicine (JSCM).
Original Research (15 minute session):
- Background: Brief introduction, statement of objectives or hypothesis
- Design: Setting, study design, follow-up, outcomes
- Methods: Study population, selection criteria, essential features of interventions/observations, statistical analysis
- Results: Data analysis should indicate findings in narrative (rather than tabular format), confidence intervals, and statistical significance
- Conclusion(s): Supported by evidence, include clinical relevance and application

Non-research focused (30 minute session):
- Purpose
- Brief background of issue/topic
- Significance for SCI practice
- Conclusion/Summary statement

2. Workshop
- The workshop is an integration of theories, concepts and findings. Presentation content should focus on a central theme. **Workshops incorporating multiple professional disciplines is encouraged.**
- Sessions may be scheduled for 60 to 120 minutes and involve up to 4 presenters, including a moderator.
- The moderator, who organizes the symposium, must obtain a commitment from all presenters to register for and attend the annual conference prior to submitting any abstract.
- Workshops often provide an ongoing interface between presenter(s) and the audience, and may include hands-on demonstration of techniques.

Abstract Submission Requirements:
**Outline** of information to be presented. Information should include:
- Summary of themes
- Expanded discussion of learning objectives
- Outline of issues/subjects to be discussed
- If applicable, information regarding a report on a study, including design, follow-up and outcomes should be included.

3. Poster
- A poster is a visually formatted presentation of a topic using charts, graphs, illustrations, and photographs to supplement a written narrative.
- The topic may be clinically or research-based, or describe new techniques, procedures, or technologies. It provides a visual forum for one-on-one discussion with the presenter.
- **The presenter must be available at a designated time, as specified in the program, to discuss information with conferees.**
- Posters will also be available for viewing throughout the meeting.

Abstract Submission Requirements:
- The abstract must contain all of the following elements: background, design, methods, results, conclusions for research focused, purpose, background, significance and conclusion for non-research focused.
- Reference to equipment, devices or pharmaceutical products must use the correct manufacturer, trade, and generic names.
- Upon acceptance, your poster must be built on the template provided by the Academy. The poster will be printed and delivered to the conference by the Academy. Upon completion of the conference, the poster may be taken home by the presenter.
- Appropriate acknowledgements for financial support must be declared.
In all cases, patient anonymity must be protected in accordance with the HIPPA Privacy Law.

**Poster and Trainee Recognition for Research Awards**
The Academy Research Committee (ARC) will be offering FIVE trainees/residents/interns**, one from each discipline of ASCIP -- medicine (APS), PT/OT (TLC), nursing (SCIN) and psychology/social work (PSW)-- the opportunity for a 10-minute plenary presentation on his or her research at this annual event, five minutes will be reserved for audience questions and discussions. There will also be 3 poster awards presented to non-trainees. Presenters and topics will be listed in the conference program and certificates will be awarded to each presenter. If an abstract is chosen as a platform presentation award it will not be eligible for poster award.

** Must actively engaged in a matriculated academic program, have load greater than or equal to 50% full time, and are not working full time.  Also includes residents and/or fellows who have expressed interest in SCI/D.

**Eligibility for Trainee Awards:**
- Research must have been conducted as a trainee (undergraduate or graduate) from any discipline associated with our organization within the past 5 years.
- Mentorship must be recognized in the presentation.
- One trainee from each discipline will be selected to present for each discipline within ASCIP.

**Available awards:**
- ASCIP Best Empirical Research Poster Award
- ASCIP Best Clinical Demonstration Poster Award
- ASCIP Diversity Poster Award
- POSTER for Best Clinical Practice, PSW Trainee (Adcock).
- POSTER for Best APS Trainee (research, clinical practice or diversity)
- POSTER for Best PSW Trainee (research, clinical practice or diversity)
- POSTER for Best SCIN Trainee (research, clinical practice or diversity)
- POSTER for Best TLC Trainee (research, clinical practice or diversity)
- PLENARY PRESENTATION: Best APS Trainee Poster (research)
- PLENARY PRESENTATION: Best PSW Trainee Poster (research)
- PLENARY PRESENTATION: Best SCIN Trainee Poster (research)
- PLENARY PRESENTATION: Best TLC Trainee Poster (research)

**Questions/Contact information:**
If you have any PROGRAM questions contact:
Linda Madaris – 2016 Academy Program Committee Chair
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If you have any TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE questions for the online system contact:
Katy Winnett
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