



SOMA Call for Abstracts

Special Operations Medical & Scientific Assembly (SOMSA)

May 13-17, 2018

Charlotte Convention Center, Charlotte, NC

SUBMISSION DEADLINE – November 3, 2017

General Information

The Special Operations Medical Association (SOMA) is calling for abstract submissions for the research program of the Special Operations Medical and Scientific Assembly (SOMSA 2018) to disseminate emerging and ongoing research initiatives, in addition to enabling scholarly collaboration among colleagues and members of operational medicine.

The full spectrum of research is considered, including proof-of-concept, basic science, evidence-based practice initiatives, structured case reports, systematic/integrative reviews, clinical studies, experimental/quasi-experimental and other scholarly works. We seek **innovative, rigorous, original research** as focus submissions in topics relevant to the mission of SOMA. **We expect medics and forward providers to co-author/co-present relevant submissions and will give significant preference to submissions with medic collaborators.** The use of the English language is expected. Studies in progress are welcome to submit abstracts, provided at least pilot and/or preliminary analyses are completed by SOMSA 2018.

“Expert panels” or consensus-based approaches to SOF medicine are ineligible for consideration in the research program and are directed to submit abstracts for general program presentations.

Focus Areas

In particular, we seek and strongly encourage abstract submissions addressing:

- 1) neuroendocrine and/or physiological influences on mental health and suicidality (in particular, rigorous studies or developed hypotheses that refute, redefine, and/or reframe assumptions and previous findings on resilience, post-traumatic stress disorder [PTSD], biomarkers, neurocognition, etc.)
- 2) practice advancement (in particular, prolonged field care advancements and technologies)
- 3) research-driven training (in particular, using internet and social networking platforms, studies examining simulation vs live-tissue training, etc.)
- 4) biomedical/engineering breakthroughs (in particular, proof-of-concept and/or nascent devices, technologies, pharmacotherapies, blood products, etc.)

How to Submit

Please submit a brief, 300-word abstract using [this link](#) by **1600 EST on November 3, 2017**. The abstract submission site will be open until the deadline of **November 3, 2017**. Submissions **must** be entered into this electronic system. Submissions received after this date will be considered only if there is a shortage of adequate submissions. **Abstract submissions must follow APA or MLA abstract format guidelines, including key words.**

Format

Title, Author name(s) and affiliation(s), Background, Methods, Results, Discussion, and Acknowledgements. If the work requires, you may use another format. No figures, tables, images or symbols may be used except < and the like. By convention, abstract word count does not include acknowledgement which is technically not part of the abstract. For the same reason, author names, affiliations and title do not count in the abstract word count.

You are required to acknowledge any funding, prior presentations, conflicts of interest and any scientific or ethical oversight. Lack of acknowledgement of any of these items indicates absence and will result in rejection of submission. **All authors and presenters must be identified by name, rank or title, position, organization, city, state, country.**

Notification

Submissions will be considered for podium presentation or poster. You may state your preference in your submission, but final selection will be made by the committee. You will receive acknowledgement of receipt of your submission within one week and a reply regarding your acceptance by **December 8, 2017.**

Caveats: All Candidates Must Read Carefully

Please note that previous presentations at SOMSA, rank/position within SOMA or any other organization, and/or affiliations or authority with military units, Special Operations medicine (whether formal or informal) are **not considered nor factored in abstract reviews or acceptance. The review process is impartial to influence.** Inquiries about inclusion in the research presentations and/or solicitations for preference directed toward any member of SOMA/SOMSA leadership or staff regarding the research presentations, other than general questions about submission processes or presentation details, **will result in that applicant and their associated co-investigators being immediately barred from consideration, acceptance, and/or revocation of accepted presentation,** whether poster or podium in nature. **Submissions are judged solely on scientific merit and contributions toward current and future research and practice priorities.**

Awards

Awards will be presented for top platform and top poster as judged by a review committee.

All communication will be to the one e-mail address you provide within the abstract submission. Any inquiries should be directed to the SOMA Executive Office at soma-education@kellencompany.com.