



SOMA 2020 Scientific Assembly

Call for Research Abstracts

(Guidelines)

SOMSA 2020 is May 11-15, 2020 in Raleigh, North Carolina

Submission Deadline: Monday, November 4, 2019

The SOMA Research Committee seeks innovative, rigorous, original research as focus submissions in topics relevant to the mission of SOMA. The Research concurrent track's goal is to disseminate emerging and ongoing research initiatives, in addition to enabling scholarly collaboration among colleagues and members of pre-hospital/operational medicine. The research needs to address important medical challenges and issues, increase the knowledge and skills of SOF and civilian pre-hospital providers and promote the development of new best practices and technologies.

Abstract submissions will be considered for the following types of sessions:

- Oral podium presentation (15-20 minutes)
- Poster Session (casually discuss your research with attendees at the Opening Reception)

Medics and forward providers are expected to co-author/co-present relevant submissions, and significant preference will be given 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 complete by May 2020.

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/technologies and virtual health/telemedicine)
- 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.)
- 5) Research directly aimed at improvements in operational medicine procedures for special operations medic-operators or civilian first responders in austere and hostile environments.

Research submissions must include the following content in order to be a viable research abstract submission. "Expert panels" or consensus-based approaches to SOF medicine are ineligible for consideration as research. For all author(s) please provide **rank, name, credentials, position, organization, city, state, country**. Please include these four section titles with corresponding content within the body of your 300-word abstract:

- Background
- Methods
- Results
- Conclusion/Discussion

No figures, tables, images or symbols may be used except <, >, = and the like. You will be asked to provide acknowledgements of funding, prior presentations, conflicts of interest and any scientific or ethical oversight.

Poster presentations are less formal, but not less rigorous or substantive, than oral presentations. Rather than delivering an address before an assembled audience, poster authors present their work interactively to small groups of interested people with the aid of a visual display that summarizes research findings or information presented. Posters are displayed in a central location so that attendees can peruse the posters and converse with the authors. Poster presenters will receive presentation guidelines to help best display their research.

The Research Committee will evaluate an abstract's relevance and value to SOMA target audiences as well as the source, depth and quality of the content represented using these criteria:

1. RELEVANCE: Contribution to Special Operations Medicine.
2. CLARITY: Clarity of the study question/hypothesis/objective.
3. STRENGTH: Strength of the study design.
4. DATA ANALYSIS: Appropriateness of the data analysis.
5. RESULTS: Explanation of results and analysis.
6. CONCLUSIONS: Consistency of conclusions with the results.
7. QUALITY: Literary quality.

Awards (4) will be presented on the last day of the assembly to both the best overall oral and poster presentations and the best oral and poster presentations submitted or presented by an SOF operator as judged by a review committee on-site.

Final decisions on which abstracts are accepted for the 2020 program will be made by mid-December. Authors will be notified about the status of their abstract(s) via email shortly thereafter. Submit your abstracts [here](#).

Please direct questions concerning the scientific assembly or the proposal submission process to:

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