

Southern Thoracic Surgical Association

Rules for Submission of Abstracts

Abstracts for papers to be presented for the 2008 Annual Meeting can now be submitted. **Abstracts must be submitted online using the CTSNet Online Abstract Submission System**, which can be accessed via the STSA Web site at <http://www.stsa.org> or the CTSNet Abstract Submission System at <http://www.ctsnet.org/abstracts/stsa/1249>. Abstracts must be submitted by April 14, 2008 by midnight Central Daylight Time. **Paper abstracts cannot be submitted.**

An electronic abstract must be submitted for videos. Actual videos must be received by STSA Headquarters by April 14, 2008.

The online system allows you to use your Web browser to submit your abstract for review. You will need a recent version of a Web browser (we recommend Netscape Navigator version 4.0 or higher, or Microsoft Internet Explorer version 4.0 or higher).

When you have completed the forms and submitted your abstract, your Web browser will display a confirmation page. *Please print and save this confirmation page for your records.*

Please do not submit the same abstract twice.

You may cut and paste the text of your abstract from a word processing application into the Abstract Text form. This will allow you to use your word processor to check the length of your abstract and your spelling. Please avoid special formatting such as lists. Formatting that appears in your word processor will not come through correctly in your abstract.

The use of one table or one figure within your abstract is possible. Table data can be entered with this abstract submission system, but the format must be fairly simple (a single row of heading information followed by 2 to 10 rows of data in 1 to 10 columns). Figures must be uploaded from your computer after you have created them in either GIF or JPG electronic format. Tables and figures will appear automatically between the RESULTS and the CONSLUSIONS section of your abstract.

RULES FOR SUBMISSION OF ELECTRONIC ABSTRACTS

Please follow the instructions below; otherwise your abstracts cannot be selected for review. Instructions on the abstract forms provide specific complete instructions.

Abstracts must summarize an original contribution not presented or accepted for presentation elsewhere. *Abstracts received after the deadline will not be considered.*

Papers selected will be published in *The Annals of Thoracic Surgery* if they pass the usual editorial review.

Presenters are reminded that all papers accepted for presentation must be submitted prior to the presentation or immediately following the presentation using the online manuscript submission system at www.atseditorialoffice.org.

Abstracts frequently obscure the value of their content because they are poorly organized. It is important that methods and results be clearly defined in the abstract; general statements such as “results will be presented” are not acceptable. When procedure or method is stated to have “advantages,” those advantages should be defined. Abstracts that simply summarize results without defining objectives and methods are equally undesirable.

Presentations in the programs are limited to approximately 7 minutes. Video technique films should be no longer than 10 minutes and must be in a dvd/NTSC format. Video films can be submitted for (a) adult cardiac, (b) congenital, or (c) general thoracic. Videos should include narration for reviewing purposes. An electronic abstract must be submitted for videos. Actual videos must be received by STSA Headquarters by April 14, 2008. (Mail dvds to STSA, 633 North Saint Clair Street, Suite 2320, Chicago, IL 60611, Attention: Katie McAuliff)

In discussion of papers, the Association encourages a healthy spirit of constructive critical review and rebuttal by comments pertinent to the content of the paper being presented. Presentation of the discussion in the form of “secondary papers” will not be welcomed.

Manuscripts accepted for the Resident Competition need to be submitted to the STSA headquarters office no later than September 29, 2008. The Resident Award will be based on abstract, presentation, and manuscript.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR ELECTRONIC ABSTRACTS

Authors must select an **Abstract Category** that indicates the principal subject of their abstract. Lastly, if you are a resident and interested in the annual resident competition, from the **Award Submitted For** list, please select **Hawley H. Seiler Resident’s Competition Award**.

1. FULL names of authors (First, MI, Last) must appear on the abstract, without degrees, titles, or appointment.
2. Place an asterisk (*) after the last name of each author who is a member of the Southern Thoracic Surgical Association.
3. Institution or address is to be given.
4. Abstracts must be limited to 250 words. The abstracts should be structured in the following order: **Background, Methods, Results, Conclusions**.
5. When percentages are used, the absolute numbers of derivation must be stated.
6. The body of the abstract should include:
 - a. A brief statement of the purpose of the study, referring, as appropriate, to the current state of research in the field.
 - b. The methods of study or experimental approach clearly defined.

- c. A summary of the results and/or conclusions of the study, including sufficient details to support those conclusions.
7. The author(s) must attest that the material will not be presented elsewhere if accepted for the scientific program nor published elsewhere if accepted for publication in *The Annals of Thoracic Surgery*.
8. Authors are reminded that all papers accepted for presentation:
 - a. must be submitted prior to or immediately following the presentation using the online submission system at www.atseditorialoffice.org;
 - b. abstracts not in compliance with these instructions will not be reviewed.

AWARDS

The President's Awards

The President's Award for the best scientific paper is given annually to the author of the paper judged to be superior to all others delivered at the previous annual meeting of the Association. The award is given on the basis of originality, content and presentation. Previous winners have uniformly displayed excellence in all areas.

The winner is chosen by the President with the assistance of the Council members. {Note: there is no application process for this award}. The author receives a certificate identifying the award and a suitable monetary award.

Hawley H. Seiler Resident's Competition Award

This award is presented to an outstanding cardiothoracic resident. This honor is bestowed upon the resident excelling in the following categories regarding their abstract submission: manuscript and oral presentation. This honor is named after Past President and STSA founding member Hawley H. Seiler, MD.

The winner is chosen by a panel of physicians from the Executive Council. The winner receives transportation, accommodations and complimentary registration fees for the following annual meeting and will be recognized at the annual Dinner/Dance. {Note: submitters must be able to indicate their willingness to participate in the Resident Competition, if applicable.}