

Southern Thoracic Surgical Association

Rules for Submission of Abstracts

Abstracts for papers to be presented at the 2009 STSA 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>. Abstracts must be submitted by April 13, 2009 by midnight Eastern Time (US). **Paper abstracts cannot be submitted.**

An electronic abstract must be submitted for videos. Actual videos must be received by CTSNet by April 13, 2009.

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 CONCLUSIONS 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. Flash Video is the preferred format for video submissions. Video films can be submitted for (a) adult cardiac, (b) congenital, or (c) general thoracic. Videos should include narration for reviewing purposes. *Please note that any patient identifying information must be excluded or obscured from video films and narration.* An electronic abstract must be submitted for videos. Actual videos must be received by CTSNet by April 13, 2009. (Mail dvds to CTSNet, 401 East Pratt Street, Suite 351, Baltimore, MD 21202. Attention: Ray Everngam).

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 Hawley Seiler Residents Competition need to be submitted to the STSA headquarters office no later than October 12, 2009. The Resident Award will be based on the quality of abstract, presentation, and manuscript.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR ELECTRONIC ABSTRACTS

Authors must select an **Abstract Category** that indicates the principal subject of their abstract. Category options are (a) adult cardiac, (b) congenital, (c) general thoracic, and (d) history. In addition, if you are a resident and interested in the annual resident competition, please select **Hawley H. Seiler Resident’s Competition Award** from the **Award Submitted For** list.

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. Relationship Disclosure information must be submitted by all authors for each abstract submitted.

5. Abstracts in all categories *except History* must be limited to 250 words and should be structured in the following order: **Background, Methods, Results, Conclusions**. See number 8 below for details regarding the submission of *History* abstracts.
6. When percentages are used, the absolute numbers of derivation must be stated.
7. 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.
8. For the 2009 Annual Meeting, STSA will accept abstracts in a “History” category. Papers in this category should address historical aspects of cardiothoracic surgery or healthcare in general. Please note, abstracts should outline the presentation topic and will be limited to 500 words. All other rules for submission of electronic abstracts apply to History papers. Please e-mail Katie Bochenek at kbochenek@stsa.org with any questions related to submitting an abstract in the History category.
9. 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*.
10. 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 Clifford Van Meter President’s Awards

The Clifford Van Meter 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 that meeting. {Note: submitters must be able to indicate their willingness to participate in the Resident Competition, if applicable.}