



WISCONSIN ATHLETIC TRAINERS' ASSOCIATION

Annual Meeting & Symposium

Free Communication Session

Call for Abstracts

The Free Communication Session at the Annual WATA Symposium provides a forum for researchers, clinicians, and students to disseminate research and clinical case studies. Abstracts are reviewed and selected by the WATA Research Committee and are presented via poster presentation. The WATA Research Committee also gives an award for athletic training student posters that demonstrate exemplary performance in best original research, most clinically relevant research, and best case report (one award per category).

Where:

2018 WATA Annual Meeting and Symposium
Chula Vista Resort, Wisconsin Dells, WI
April 12th-14th, 2018

Free Communications Session Eligibility:

- All presenters, student or certified must be members of the WATA in order to be eligible to present.
 - All abstract submissions must follow the applicable NATA Research & Education Foundation Free Communications Program submission guidelines (Peer-Reviewed Track: <http://natafoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2018-Peer-Review-Track-Instructions.pdf>). Submissions that do not comply with these requirements are less likely to be accepted.
- Authors should be limited to those who meet the Authorship Guidelines provided by the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (<http://goo.gl/s69qpU>).
- The first author of the abstract must be present at the required times of presentation.

Free Communications Session Student Award Eligibility:

- Must be enrolled in an accredited entry-level athletic training education program at the time of submission.
- Must choose a category to submit (Original Research, Best Clinical Research, or Case Report). Students may submit one project for award consideration per year and may receive one award per year.
- Any members of the research team that do not meet the above requirements may be an author but will not be eligible for the award(s).

Submission Guidelines:

- The abstract must be submitted electronically as a WORD document. The file should be titled with the first author's first initial followed by their last name (i.e. ATRAINER.docx).
- The electronic file must be sent to watainc.research@gmail.com and received by 11:59pm on Friday, March 2nd, 2018.

Decision Notification:

- Applicants will be notified of the WATA Research Committee's decision by Monday, March 12th, 2018.

Poster Guidelines:

- The poster must be no larger than 3' x 4'.
- Font on the poster should be viewable from a distance of 4 feet (approximately size 16 font or greater).
- Pictures, diagrams, tables, etc. are considered helpful and highly recommended on the poster.

- The presentation should follow *AMA Manual of Style* for references, figures, tables, etc.
- Following the NATA Research & Education Foundations Poster Guidelines is recommended (<http://natafoundation.org/nata-foundation-free-communication-program-guidelines-recommendations-for-poster-presentations/>)

Student Awards:

- The WATA Research Committee, in conjunction with other certified WATA members, will judge the posters and determine award winners. If WATA Research Committee members are also authors, they will not be allowed to judge posters and determine award winners. An alternative reviewer will be selected.
- Winners will be determined based on the following categories (in order of importance):
 1. Quality of Research/Case Report
 2. Conclusion Accuracy
 3. Relevance to Profession
 4. Originality/Novelty
 5. Visual Appeal of Poster
- A cash prize will be awarded to the top presenters. Awards will be presented at the WATA Awards banquet.