



*A multidisciplinary program of the
American College of Surgeons*

Commission on Cancer Physician-in-Training Cancer Research Paper Competition

The Committee on Cancer Liaison announces the 2012 Commission on Cancer (CoC) Physician-in-Training Cancer Research Paper Competition. All CoC State Chairs are requested to facilitate a cancer paper competition within their American College of Surgeons (ACoS) Chapter and submit one abstract representing their State Chapter for judging at the national level.

Mission of the Commission on Cancer

The Commission on Cancer is a consortium of professional organizations dedicated to improving survival and quality of life for cancer patients through standard-setting, prevention, research, education, and the monitoring of comprehensive quality care.

Eligibility

Abstracts by residents and fellows in training on topics specific to oncology and related to the mission of the Commission on Cancer will be considered in the national competition. Leading abstracts that have been previously presented at a state, regional or national meeting within 24 months will be considered for judging. Original research is encouraged.

Procedure

1. State Chairs are encouraged to select top abstracts by conducting an ACoS State Chapter Cancer Research Paper Competition in conjunction with their State Chapter Annual Meeting. In circumstances where a State Chapter competition is not possible, State Chairs may define a process to select a top abstract to be endorsed by their State Chapter.
2. Abstracts selected as winners at the ACoS State Chapter level from June 1, 2011 through December 31, 2012 will be advanced to the Commission on Cancer in Chicago no later than January 31, 2013.
3. The State Chair will advance a copy of the winning abstract to the Cancer Liaison Program in Chicago. Please be sure that the principal author's name, institution, phone, fax, and email appear on the abstract. An abstract template that can be used is available on the State Chair Information Board.)
4. A pre-selected panel of judges from the Committee on Cancer Liaison will review the abstracts and select first, second and third place winners.
5. Awards will be made in early 2013.

How to get started

- Talk with the Chapter Council about its interest in hosting a cancer research paper competition.
- Determine with the Chapter Council the process and procedures for announcing the competition, determining eligibility, reviewing the submissions, selecting the winners, and announcing the awards. In addition, define the scope of the competition (e.g., eligible research topics), and appropriate awards at the Chapter level, and consider providing for the competition winner's ability to present his or her research at an appropriate Chapter forum.
- Determine any conflict of interest rules and select a panel of judges/abstract reviewers prior to announcing the competition.
- Develop an announcement or "call for papers" outlining the competition process, procedures (e.g., how and where to send submissions, length of submissions, format, etc.), eligibility criteria, eligible topics, judging criteria, timelines and other relevant competition information.
- Develop a plan for, and distribute, the announcements to Chapter members, program directors in surgery, and other appropriate individuals and organizations.
- Research and solicit funding sources within and outside the Chapter to contribute to cash awards and/or plaque or certificate and other competition expenses (if needed). Consider co-branding with your American Cancer Society division, another organization or a large contributor as an incentive.
- Consider news releases to local media outlets or notices to appropriate local professional organizations to announce competition winners.

Judging Criteria

Each abstract will be judged by the Committee on Cancer Liaison based upon originality, scientific merit, and clinical relevance to oncology and the mission of the Commission on Cancer.

Awards

The author of the first place winning abstract in the ACS-CoC Research Paper Competition will receive a plaque and cash award of \$1,000, travel expenses to the American College of Surgeons Clinical Congress with the opportunity to make a presentation on his/her research to the Annual Meeting of the Commission on Cancer. The authors of the second and third place winning abstracts will receive a cash award of \$500, and an invitation to present a poster presentation of their research during the Annual Meeting of the Commission on Cancer.

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