



30th Annual Conference

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

The 30th Annual Virginia Geriatrics Society Conference will be held in Richmond, VA from April 26-28, 2019 at the Hilton Richmond Hotel in Short Pump. The conference will feature renowned speakers from around the Commonwealth and beyond that will provide clinical updates on the care of older adults.

This year, the VGS Program Planning Committee is pleased to invite authors to submit abstracts (clinical vignette, clinical research, or quality improvement-patient safety projects) for our inaugural poster competition. In doing so, we hope to foster scholarly activity and promote research projects focused on improving the health of the elderly.

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

The abstract submission window will be open until March 29, 2019 4:00 pm. Following review of submitted abstracts, selected individuals will be notified by April 5, 2019.

The poster competition is open to all medical, nursing and pharmacy trainees (students, residents, fellows) currently enrolled in an accredited school in Virginia. Please note that the trainee must be listed as an author on the abstract and be able to present the poster during the conference.

We are interested in abstracts representing a unique case presentation of an older adult or geriatric syndrome (clinical vignette), a research project representing the interests of older adults or their caregivers (clinical research), or a quality improvement project focused on improving the care of older adults (quality improvement-patient safety).

Abstracts will be judged by a panel of experts on the (1) relevance of the case or research project to the audience at VGS, (2) innovation, (3) scientific validity, and (4) quality of abstract presentation. Abstracts with significant grammatical errors will be automatically disqualified.

Please prepare your abstract carefully and ensure all contact information is accurate. If you are having technical trouble with the abstract template or submission process, please contact conference coordinator Christine Heubusch via christine.heubusch@easterassociates.com or 434-977-3716 ext. 23.

[PLEASE CLICK HERE TO SUBMIT YOUR ABSTRACT.](#)

Recommendations for Formatting an Abstract:

- Abstracts can only be submitted online using the official submission form
- Abstracts must be submitted in English.
- No more than 400 words.
- No references, tables or graphics should be included in the abstract.
- When using abbreviations within the body of the abstract, please spell out the name in full at first mention and follow with the abbreviation in parentheses.
- It is the responsibility of the author to ensure abstract text does not contain any typos or grammatical errors.
- No changes can be made to the abstract after the submission window has closed.



30th Annual Conference

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

A poster presentation is designed to allow the presenter to have a static image of text and graphics describing findings from projects, description of programs or their activities or other creative work completed in the field related to the conference theme. Work being submitted in a poster format must lend itself well to visual displays and representations. These sessions allow for engagement in informal discussions about the work with interested delegates throughout the conference. **Poster authors are expected to be present during the designated poster session on Friday, April 26th from 5:30–6:30 pm.**

Posters will be on display during the poster competition session at the annual conference and available for download on the Virginia Geriatrics Society website following the conference. This will allow attendees to browse posters online following the conference and make contact with poster presenters to facilitate mentorship and continued scholarly involvement.

As this is an interactive conference, it is expected that the trainee of the submitted poster will register and attend the conference to be available to discuss their findings with fellow attendees during the scheduled timeslot.

PREPARATION OF POSTERS

Each poster will be presented on one side of a large poster board. The maximum dimensions for your poster are 4' x 8'. Your poster does not have to be the maximum size but should be large enough to be read from a comfortable distance (at least 4-6 feet away). A comfortable (and affordable!) poster size is usually approximately 3' x 4', although you may want to confirm available paper sizes with your local or online printer company.

A poster presentation is a graphically-oriented summary of your research and is considered successful if it conveys a clear message to the viewers. A poster is not a conference paper, and simply pinning a paper to a poster board usually makes a very poor poster. In preparing a poster, simplicity is the key! A poster should not contain a lot of details—the poster should tell a complete story by itself, but a presenter can always communicate the fine points to interested participants. The poster should provide clear information on objectives, the approach, the main results and the major conclusions of the research. Where possible, use pictures, graphs and (limited) tables rather than text. Viewers should be able to grasp the message in a short time, usually less than one minute.

SUGGESTED POSTER FORMAT

- **Title:** Include a banner frame clearly stating the title of the poster.
- **Authors:** Names and affiliated organization. All authors are encouraged to include the logos your academic and financial sponsors
- **Introduction:** Specify the objective of your study and provide an overview of what relevant literature to end with the significance and value of your research. Be succinct. Full sentences are not necessary.
- **Methods or Case Description:** Present methodology of research or case description for a case presentation.
- **Results or Case Discussion:** Present research results or case discussion for a case presentation.
- **Conclusion:** Include a brief summary of the main findings or clinical pearls.



30th Annual Conference

SUGGESTED LAYOUT AND DESIGN

- Your title should be appropriate for a general academic audience; make it interesting and informative.
- The poster presentation should be self-contained and complete without additional oral explanation.
- Each frame of the poster presentation should contain a text block, a graphic, or a combination of the two elements.
- The poster presentation should clearly indicate the order for viewing.
- Text size should be at least 18-24 points and be legible from 4-6 feet away. The title should be legible from 10-15 feet.
- Limit the number of colors and background images used to avoid distractions.
- Text-based explanations should be kept to a minimum. Be creative in the graphical representation. At least 50% of the poster presentation should be figures (i.e., charts, graphs, illustrations). Try using a variety of figure types. Limit your use of tables.
- Limit poster to no more than 12 frames or if using vertical columns, no more than 4.
- Provide clear captions for all figures.
- Use color to add impact and provide visual appeal.

FREQUENT MISTAKES

Too many posters do not succeed in getting their message across. Here are some of the main errors presenters make:

- Too much text!
- Text too small.
- Unclear structure - make sure your section headers are labeled and follow the suggested format (Introduction, Methods, Results, Conclusion).
- Poor figures - make graphics/charts reader-friendly.
- Information overload - too much information.
- Proof-read multiple times and we suggest a careful review by 1-2 peers and/or mentors prior to final copy is sent to printer.