



MAATA CALL FOR STUDENT FREE

COMMUNICATION ABSTRACTS

Mid-Atlantic Athletic Trainers' Association Annual Symposium
Charlotte Hilton University Place, Charlotte, NC
May 14-16, 2021

Deadline For Abstract Submission: March 20, 2021 @ 11:59 PM

Abstracts are currently being accepted for the 2021 Student Free Communications Presentation at the Mid-Atlantic Athletic Trainers' Symposium – Student Program. Abstracts include original research, clinical CASE study levels 1-4, or critically appraised topics. Any student abstract accepted for presentation at the National Athletic Trainers' Association Annual Conference and Symposium is also eligible for presentation at the MAATA Student Symposium.

Eligible Participants:

Non-certified (at the time of abstract submission) professional athletic training students enrolled in a CAATE accredited athletic training program in District III. If you are a certified athletic trainer there is a separate free communications call.

Review of Submissions:

All abstracts will undergo a blind review by the Selection Committee. Abstracts that do not meet the submission and format criteria will not be reviewed. There is no allotted time to make edits after abstract submission therefore if instructions are not followed the abstract will likely be rejected. A large portion of rejections are mechanical in nature.

There are 3 categories of abstracts being accepted:

1. **Original Research:** must be written to the accepted scientific standards of a research area and should present findings that relate to the athletic training profession.
2. **Clinical CASE Study Levels 1-4:** should present a unique individual injury or medical condition case that would be of general interest to improve patient care provided by athletic trainers. The NATA Research and Education Foundation provides specific resources to assist in determining the level, which you are encouraged to review: <https://www.natafoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2020-Peer-Review-Track-Instructions.pdf>
3. **Critically Appraised Topic:** must provide a summary of evidence on a topic of interest focused around a clinical question relative to the athletic training profession.

Submission Instructions:

1. All abstracts must be submitted electronically via the sponsoring faculty member; the faculty member must assure in the e-mail that the abstract follows formatting and submission criteria and is of professional quality. Additionally CC the presenter(s) on the e-mail. Send submissions and direct any questions to:

Emily Hildebrand, PhD, LAT, ATC
MAATA Student Program Chair
ehildebrand@towson.edu
410-704-3174

2. Additionally, a blinded abstract must be submitted electronically by the sponsoring faculty member to: ehildebrand@towson.edu
3. The body of the e-mail must include the following information:
 - a. Program Director or Faculty Sponsor's name, phone number, and e-mail address
 - b. Name of lead presenter, phone number, and e-mail address
 - c. *If applicable: name of secondary presenter, phone number, and e-mail address
 - d. Title of the abstract
 - e. Indicate your preferred presentation style: poster, oral, or if you would like to be considered for either.

*More than 1 author may be on the abstract but only 2 of the authors may present at the conference.

4. When sending files electronically, please title your (2) files as follows:
 - a. Full Abstract- use your last name, abstract, year (i.e. Hildebrand_Abstract_2021.pdf)
 - b. Blind copy- use blind, abstract, year (i.e. Blind_Abstract_2021.pdf)
5. Make the e-mail subject: MAATA 2021 Student Free Communications Abstract Submission
6. Selection of oral or poster presentations will occur by early April and individuals will be notified of acceptance or rejection via e-mail.
7. If accepted, the presenter will need to confirm their attendance within 1 week. Poster Presentations are conducted in a thematic fashion - - the presenter(s) are positioned by their poster and engage in question and answer discussion with members of the selection committee. Oral presentations are conducted as a PowerPoint presentation to an audience. Presentations will still occur for poster and oral presentations if the 2021 Student Program moves to a virtual or hybrid format.
8. There is no remuneration for presenters of accepted free communications; however, the presenters will receive feedback on their final product from the selection committee.

Abstract Content:

1. Top, bottom, right, and left margins of the body of the abstract (in a WORD file) should be set at 1.5" using the standard 8.5" x 11" format. Use a regular font no smaller than 11pt. Provide the title of the abstract in title case (i.e. This Is The Proper Abstract Title Format) starting at the left margin. Do not justify the right margin. Titles should be brief, clearly describing the content of the abstract.
2. On the next line, indent 3 spaces and provide the names of all authors, with the author who will make the presentation listed first. Enter the last name, then initials (without periods), followed by a comma, and continue the same format for all secondary authors (if any), ending with a colon. If any author is affiliated with another institution where the project was not conducted, use the * after their name and after the institution (including city and state). If more than one symbol is needed please use additional symbols (*, §, ?, ¶, #, **).
3. On the same line following the colon, indicate the name of the institution (including the city and state) where the research was conducted.

Example:

Title Placed Here In Title Case

Hildebrand EE, Meyerl E: Institution, City, State

4. Double space and begin entering the body of the abstract flush / justified left. The text of the body must be structured appropriately (explained on the NATA Foundation website). Do not justify the right margin. The body must not exceed **450 words for Original Research, 600 words for CASE Studies, and 600 for Critically Appraised Topics**. Please include the word count at the end of the abstract.
5. Abbreviations may be used; place any abbreviation in parentheses after the first time the full word(s) appear.
6. Numbers should be written as numerals except if it is the first word in a sentence.
7. Follow the following guidelines for headers and abstract body content:

Original Research

Context: Write a sentence or two summarizing the rationale for the study, with a reason for the study question and/or uniqueness of the study. State the objective(s) or question(s) addressed to include a priori hypotheses if applicable.

Methods: Describe the study design (i.e. randomized controlled trial, mixed method, cross-sectional). Describe the environment in which the study was conducted so the reader can consider the transferability of the findings (i.e. clinic,

laboratory, classroom). Describe the underlying target population, sampling procedures (i.e. population based, convenience), and important aspects of the final participant pool (i.e. number, average age, average years of experience). Appropriate sample size should be evident. Describe the independent variables (i.e. intervention) and critical dependent variables that support the objectives of the study. Describe the essential pieces of the experimental methods, types of materials, measurements and instrumentation utilized, data analysis procedures, and statistical tests employed. Provide validity and reliability information or novel instrumentation. Indicate the statistical analysis used to answer the objectives.

Results: The main results should be reported. Comparative reports must include descriptive data (i.e. proportions, means, odds ratios, means, correlations), accompanying measures of dispersion (i.e. standard deviations or confidence intervals), and inferential statistical data. Results should include the exact level of significance. The P value should not exceed 3 digits to the right of the decimal.

Conclusions: Summarize the new and important findings of the study. The conclusion must be consistent with the study objectives and results as reported and should be no more than three to four sentences. Relate implications of the findings for clinical practice.

Word Count: Limited to 450 words, which does include headings.

Contributing to the Available Sources of Evidence (CASE) Study: Level 1-3

Background: Provide an overview of the condition of interest using available evidence, where appropriate. Indicate the level of the CASE study. For a Level 1 validation, the authors should give a clear description of the previously reported comparison study and highlight the most important findings. For Level 2 and 3 exploration CASE study/series, introduce the alternate, unique, or irregular presentation of the case examined compared to available evidence.

Patient: Present the clinical cases(s), including primary patient characteristics (i.e. age, sex, sport or activity, and years of experience) and diagnosis. For a case series, describe the underlying target population with measures of means and variance and important aspects of the subject pool. Pertinent aspects of the medical history should be included. Describe the patient's complaints, mechanism of injury, initial examination, diagnostic imaging, lab tests, and their commonality (i.e. characteristic, injury, postural abnormality, pathology). Describe the process that led to the diagnosis of the condition.

Intervention or Treatment: Describe the primary outcomes or results of the case. For Level 1 CASE studies, compare and contrast the outcome from the current case to the outcome of the previously reported comparison study. Compare/contrast the outcomes used in the Level 2 or Level 3 Exploration CASE studies/ series with the typical presentation of the condition as previously described. For CASE series, report whether all patients responded similarly to each other and ensure similar outcome measures were used.

Conclusion: Interpret the findings of the study. For Level 1 CASE studies, discuss the current case in the context with the previously reported comparison study including the similarities and differences in the patient and outcomes. Discuss challenges associated with implementing the intervention from the comparison study in real life and provide recommendations for continued use of the assessment or intervention. For Level 2 and 3 CASE studies/series, discuss the challenges associated with the case due to the atypical presentation and provide recommendations for clinical practice.

Clinical Bottom Line: Provide an overall statement of the most important clinical points.

Word Count: Limited to 600 words, which should include the headings.

Contributing to the Available Sources of Evidence (CASE) Study: Level 4

Background: Include the patient's age, sex, sport or activity, pertinent aspects of their medical history, a brief history of their complaint and physical findings from the examination.

Differential Diagnosis: Include all possible diagnoses suspected based on the history, mechanism of injury, and the initial examination prior to physician evaluation and/or any diagnostic imaging and laboratory tests.

Treatment: Include the physician's evaluation and state the results of diagnostic imaging and laboratory results if performed. The final diagnosis of the injury or condition should be clearly explained. The treatment and clinical course followed should be clearly detailed. Relevant and unique details should be included and the final outcome of the case.

Uniqueness: Briefly describe the uniqueness of this case such as its mechanism, incidence rate, evaluate findings, rehabilitation, or predisposing factors.

Conclusions: Include a concise summary of the case as reported and highlight the case's importance to the athletic training profession and provide the reader with a clinical learning opportunity.

Word Count: Limited to 600 words, which should include the headings.

Critically Appraised Topics

Focused Clinical Question: Clear focused question typically given in PICO/PIO format.

Data Sources: Identify how relevant research papers were identified – search strategy (i.e. electronic databases, hand search), databases, timeframe of search, key words, and search limits.

Study Selection: Describe the criteria for selection - the processes through which studies were selected for inclusion for further analysis.

Data Extraction: Describe the specific outcomes that were to be gathered from the included studies.

Summary Measures: Describe the main summary measures or analyses to be used (i.e. calculation of effect sizes, odds ratios, mean differences). In other words, describe how the extracted data were organized and summarized, the statistical procedures applied, and the results (i.e., effect sizes, odds ratios and 95% confidence intervals) of the analysis.

Evidence Appraisal: Describe the method used to appraise the quality of the evidence included, addressing issues related to the internal (the ability to determine cause and effect) and external (the ability to generalize) validity of the evidence.

Search Results: Present the overall results of the number of studies screened vs. those included.

Data Synthesis: For all outcomes considered, present a summary of data for each comparison, group differences, intervention, etc. For these results point estimates and measures of variability should be presented (for example, effect sizes and confidence intervals).

Evidence Quality: Present the overall results of the Evidence Appraisal.

Conclusions: Summarize the main findings of the study. Emphasize the "answer" to the clinical question. Interpret these findings within the context of the strengths / weaknesses / biases based on the evidence appraisal.

Word Count: Limited to 600 words, which should include headers.