2024 Call for Manuscripts

Information/Policies

Submission Deadline: August 3, 2023
Notification regarding acceptance will be sent by October 5, 2023

The Annual Conference Program Committee is accepting applications/papers for scientific manuscript presentations at the 82nd Annual Scientific Conference, February 1-4, 2024 in Tampa, FL. If you would like your research to be considered for presentation, your manuscript must be submitted through the Manuscript Submission Portal no later than August 3, 2023.

$10,000 in prize money will be divided by winners of the ACFAS Manuscript Awards of Excellence.
1st Place: $3,000; 2nd Place: $2,500; 3rd Place: $1,500; 4 Honorable Mentions: $750 each

Manuscript Presentations are live oral presentations followed by a brief commentary and open floor discussion for audience participants.

Manuscripts submitted for consideration for presentation at the Annual Conference must be Scientific Format.

Scientific Format is defined as the study/evaluation of a question and formation of a hypothesis—it could be prospective or retrospective. It involves gathering information, testing the hypothesis, interpretation of the data and drawing conclusions that validate or negate the hypothesis.

Note: A case study (collection and presentation of detailed information about a particular participant or small group) will NOT be accepted for the ACFAS manuscript competition.

Mandatory Financial Disclosure Statement
Each author and co-author(s) of a manuscript accepted for presentation are required to disclose to the program audience any real or apparent conflicts of interest regardless of whether the potential conflict relates to the specific topic they are presenting.

Each primary author and co-author(s) will have their disclosure indicated next to their names in the Annual Scientific Conference final program.

Correspondence—Notification regarding acceptance and all other correspondence will be sent via e-mail to the Correspondent Author only at the e-mail address provided in the submission. It is the responsibility of the Correspondent Author to communicate pertinent information to all manuscript co-authors.


**Policies Governing Applications/Manuscripts**
Manuscripts will ONLY be accepted in one of the following classifications:

- Arthroscopy
- Biomechanics and Anatomy
- Diabetic Foot
- Forefoot Reconstruction
- Heel Pain
- Orthotics/Prosthetics/Pedorthics
- Peripheral Nerve Disorders
- Physical Therapy/Rehabilitation
- Rearfoot and Ankle Reconstruction
- Trauma (Surgical/Conservative)
- Wound Care/Infectious Diseases

- Manuscript must **be original work**.
- Manuscript must **not be previously published**.
- The same topic will **not** be accepted for both oral presentation and as a poster exhibit.
- **Use generic names** whenever possible instead of proprietary/brand names.
- Once a manuscript is submitted, online revisions will **not** be permitted – No exceptions!
- Manuscript titles and author names will be listed in the final program; author names will appear in the order in which they are listed in the online submission.
- The ACFAS Board of Directors, members of the Judging Panel, Chair of the Annual Scientific Conference, or employees/independent contractors of the College are ineligible to participate in the ACFAS Annual Scientific Conference manuscript competition; with the caveat that residents supervised by the above referenced parties may participate, but the above referenced parties may not receive any monetary award.

**Instructions for Authors Submitting a Manuscript** are posted at acfas.org; failure to follow these instructions will disqualify the submission.

Researchers are encouraged to submit their manuscript to *The Journal of Foot & Ankle Surgery (JFAS)*, and they may do so at the same time as (or any time after) they submit their paper for the competition.

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**Information about the Manuscript Grading Process**

Manuscripts will undergo blinded review by designated judges. The manuscripts are evaluated on a point system (0 = Poor/Does Not Meet Minimum Standards; 1 = Fair/Meets Minimum Standards; 2 = Good/Exceeds Minimum Standards; and 3 = Excellent/Far Exceeds Minimum Standards) including the following list of considerations:

1. Compliance with Scientific Method
   a. Abstract
   b. Hypothesis/Purpose
   c. Presentation of Results
   d. Methodology
   e. Discussion/Conclusion
   f. Levels of Evidence (see chart below)

2. Clarity & Quality of Composition

3. Clinical Relevance/Impact
   a. Does it add to the current body of knowledge?
   b. Does it impact your clinical approach?
# Levels of Evidence for Primary Research Question

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Types of Studies</th>
<th>Level 1</th>
<th>Level 2</th>
<th>Level 3</th>
<th>Level 4</th>
<th>Level 5</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Therapeutic Studies--Investigating the Results of Treatment</strong></td>
<td>• High-quality randomized controlled trial with statistically significant difference or no statistically significant difference but narrow confidence intervals</td>
<td>• Lesser-quality randomized controlled trial (e.g. &lt;80% follow-up, no blinding, or improper randomization)</td>
<td>• Case-control study</td>
<td>Case series</td>
<td>Expert opinion</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Systematic review² of Level-1 randomized controlled trials (studies were homogeneous)</td>
<td>• Prospective⁴ comparative study⁵</td>
<td>• Retrospective⁶ study</td>
<td>• Case-control study</td>
<td>Expert opinion</td>
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<td>• Systematic review² of Level-2 studies or Level-1 studies with inconsistent results</td>
<td>• Untreated controls from a randomized controlled trial</td>
<td>• Poor reference standard</td>
<td>Expert opinion</td>
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<td>• Lesser-quality prospective study (e.g., patients enrolled at different points in their disease or &lt;80% follow-up)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Expert opinion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Systematic review² of Level-2 studies</td>
<td></td>
<td>Expert opinion</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Prognostic Studies--Investigating the Effect of a Patient Characteristic on the Outcome of Disease</strong></td>
<td>• High-quality prospective study⁴ (all patients were enrolled at the same point in their disease with &gt;80% follow-up of enrolled patients)</td>
<td>• Retrospective⁶ study</td>
<td>• Development of diagnostic criteria on basis of consecutive patients (with universally applied reference “gold” standard)</td>
<td>• Case-control study</td>
<td>Case series</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Systematic review² of Level-1 studies</td>
<td>• Untreated controls from a randomized controlled trial</td>
<td>• Systematic review² of Level-2 studies</td>
<td>• Poor reference standard</td>
<td>Case series</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Diagnostic Studies--Investigating a Diagnostic Test</strong></td>
<td>• Testing of previously developed diagnostic criteria in series of consecutive patients (with universally applied reference “gold” standard)</td>
<td>• Lesser-quality prospective study (e.g., patients enrolled at different points in their disease or &lt;80% follow-up)</td>
<td>• Systematic review² of Level-2 studies</td>
<td>• Case-control study</td>
<td>Poor reference standard</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Systematic review² of Level-1 studies</td>
<td>• Systematic review² of Level-2 studies</td>
<td></td>
<td>• No sensitivity analyses</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Economic and Decision Analyses--Developing an Economic or Decision Model</strong></td>
<td>• Sensible costs and alternatives; values obtained from many studies; multi-way sensitivity analyses</td>
<td>• Sensible costs and alternatives; values obtained from limited studies; multi-way sensitivity analyses</td>
<td>• Analyses based on limited alternatives and costs, poor estimates</td>
<td>• Systematic review² of Level-3 studies</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Systematic review² of Level-2 studies</td>
<td>• Systematic review² of Level-3 studies</td>
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1. A complete assessment of the quality of individual studies requires critical appraisal of all aspects of the study design.
2. A combination of results from two or more prior studies.
3. Studies provided consistent results.
4. Study was started before the first patient enrolled.
5. Patients treated one way (e.g., with arthrodesis) compared with patients treated another way (e.g., with arthroplasty) at the same institution.
6. Study was started after the first patient enrolled.
7. Patients identified for the study on the basis of their outcome (e.g., failed arthrodesis), called “cases”, are compared with those who did not have the outcome (e.g., had a successful arthrodesis), called “controls”.
8. Patients treated one way with no comparison group of patients treated another way.
This chart was adapted from material published by the Centre for Evidence-Based Medicine, Oxford, UK. For more information, please see www.cebm.net.