



WISCONSIN ATHLETIC TRAINERS' ASSOCIATION

2024 Annual Meeting & Symposium *Free Communication Sessions* *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 and oral presentations. The WATA Research Committee also gives awards for athletic training student posters that demonstrate exemplary research and presentation quality.

Where:

49th Annual WATA Meeting and Symposium

Best Western Premier Waterfront Hotel and Convention Center (1 N Main St, Oshkosh, WI 54901)

April 25-26, 2024

Poster session will be held during the Research Reception on Thursday, April 25. Student poster contest winners will be announced at the WATA Business Meeting on Friday, April 26.

Oral free communications session will be held on Thursday, April 25 (specific time TBD).

Free Communications Session Eligibility:

- All presenters, student or certified, must be members of the WATA in order to be eligible to present.
- Students will present at the poster session. Certified members can choose the poster or oral presentation format.
- All abstract submissions must follow the most current [NATA Research & Education Foundation Free Communications Program submission guidelines](#). Submissions that do not comply with these requirements will not be accepted. Currently, only the **Original Research Abstract, Critically Appraised Topic, or Clinical CASE Study Abstract** will be considered.
- 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.

Submission Guidelines:

- The abstract must be submitted electronically as a WORD or PDF document. The file should be titled with the first author's first initial followed by their last name (i.e. if your name is Jane Smith, your file name should be "JSMITH.docx").
- For Certified presenters only: please indicate the preferred presentation format (oral or poster).
- The document must be sent to Dr. Naoko Giblin, Research Committee Chair, at watainc.research@gmail.com and received **by 11:59pm on Friday, March 8, 2024**.

Decision Notification:

- Applicants will be notified of the WATA Research Committee's decision around April 1, 2024.

Oral Presentation Guidelines:

- Each presentation will be given a 15-minute time slot (10-12 minutes for presentation, and 3-5 minutes for audience questions).
- The presenting author must provide/upload the presentation slides prior to the free communications session. Instructions will be given on how the slides must be provided/uploaded.

Poster Presentation Guidelines:

- The poster must be no larger than 3' (length) x 4' (width).
- Font on the poster should be viewable from a distance of 4 feet (approximately size 18 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 (<https://www.natafoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/Poster-Presentation-Guidelines-1.pdf>).

Free Communications Session Student Poster Award Eligibility:

- The student must currently be enrolled in an accredited professional athletic training program at the time of submission OR graduated from an accredited professional athletic training program within the last 2 years.
- Students may submit one project as the primary author for award consideration per year and may receive one award per year. They must be present during the entire poster session to be eligible for the award.
- For multiple student author posters, the award is presented to the poster, not the individual student authors.
- 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).

Student Poster Awards Selection Criteria:

- The WATA Research Committee will judge the posters and determine award recipients. If WATA Research Committee members are also authors, they will not be allowed to judge posters and determine award recipients. An alternative reviewer will be selected.
- Award recipients will be determined based on the following criteria (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 (posters). Awards will be presented at the WATA Business Meeting.