



# The AUA Annual Meeting: Do abstracts presented stand up to the scrutiny of peer review?

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## Background

- ~1500 abstracts presented annually
- Ultimate publication rate unknown
- Abstracts do not undergo close critical peer review prior to presentation
- Meeting widely attended (>10,000)
- Potentially large impact on clinical practice



## Objectives

- To determine the publication rates of presented abstracts in four categories
  1. Podium presentations
  2. Video presentations
  3. Moderated posters
  4. Unmoderated posters
- To provide a benchmark for meeting attendees to consider when attending such presentations



## Methods

- Search algorithm using PubMed devised
- Abstracts from AUA 95<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting (2000)
  - >90% published studies within 4 years of presentation (Carroll et al, 2003)
- Criteria for being deemed 'published'
  - At least one matching conclusion
  - At least one matching author



## The Search Algorithm

- Presenting author + keywords
- Presenting author + other authors  
(i.e. wrong keyword)
- Other authors (individually) + keywords  
(i.e. presenting author left out)



## The Search Algorithm

- Limits:
  - Publication Date > Jan 1<sup>st</sup>, 2000
  - 'Human or animal'
- Keywords
  - From syllabus abstract title
- Search narrowed until <30 articles identified



## Results (Podium Abstracts)

- 322 Podium abstracts presented
- Overall publication rate = 58.7% (189/322)
- Average time to publication = 17.8 mos.
- 99% of published abstracts identified with first search strategy (presenting author and keywords)
- Total number *unpublished abstracts* = 129 (41.3%)



## Conclusions

- Overall podium abstract publication rate = 58.7%
- Similar to publication rates at other major medical meetings
  - Carroll et al, 2003 – 614/1321 abstracts at 1998 & 1999 Pediatric Academic Society meetings
  - Overall 44.6% published (53.8% of podium abs)
- We expect lower publication rates amongst poster presentations...



## Conclusions

~41% presented podium abstracts  
never withstand the scrutiny of  
critical peer review

