

Feedback on Abstracts Benefits Both Authors and Reviewers: Results of a Pilot Study at IDWeek 2021

Johns Hopkins University SOM; Baltimore, MD¹; Johns Hopkins Bayview; Baltimore, MD²; Emory University SOM, Atlanta, GA³; Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, Bethesda, MD⁴; Oregon Health & Science University, Portland, OR⁵; UT Southwestern, Dallas, TX⁶; Park Nicollet Clinic & Specialty Center, St. Louis Park, MN⁷; Wake Forest University SOM, Winston-Salem, NC⁸; University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ⁹; Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN¹⁰; University of California, San Francisco, San Francisco, CA¹¹

Background

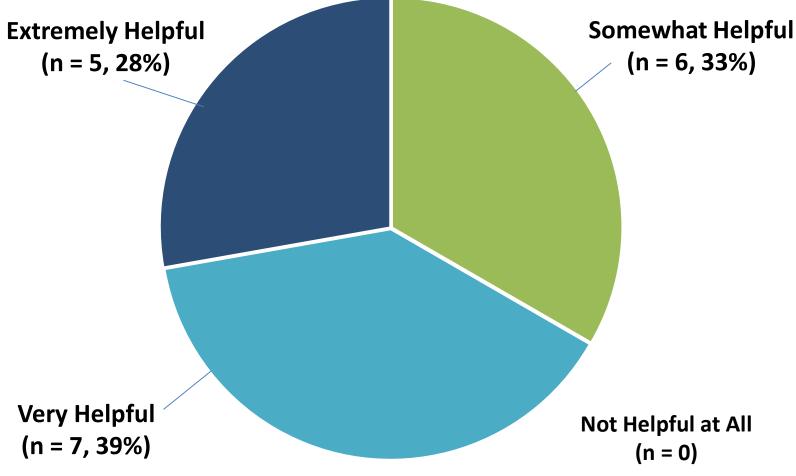
- Many abstracts are submitted to scientific meetings each year.
- Scholarly work benefits from peer review, yet specific feedback from abstract reviewers is rarely given to authors.
- Here reviewers provided feedback to all authors who submitted Medical Education abstracts to IDWeek 2021.

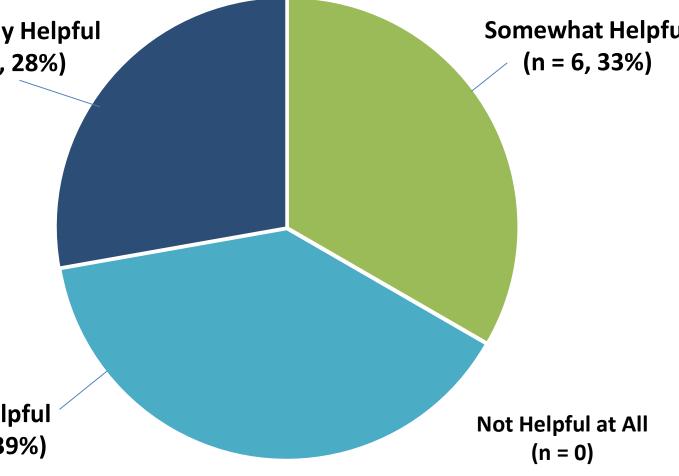
Methods

- All IDWeek 2021 Medical Education abstract reviewers were invited to a one-hour abstract review instructional webinar.
- For each assigned abstract, each reviewer was asked to provide feedback in a free text box on the review website.
- Each submitting author was sent this feedback when informed of their abstract disposition.
- Author Surveys: In Oct 2021, we emailed these authors a link to a survey soliciting their perspectives on the feedback provided; the survey included demographic questions and Likert scale questions. Descriptive data analysis was performed.
- <u>Reviewer Focus Groups</u>: All 10 reviewers participated in a virtual, semi-structured, 45 minute focus group about their experience. Two authors conducted thematic analysis on transcripts.

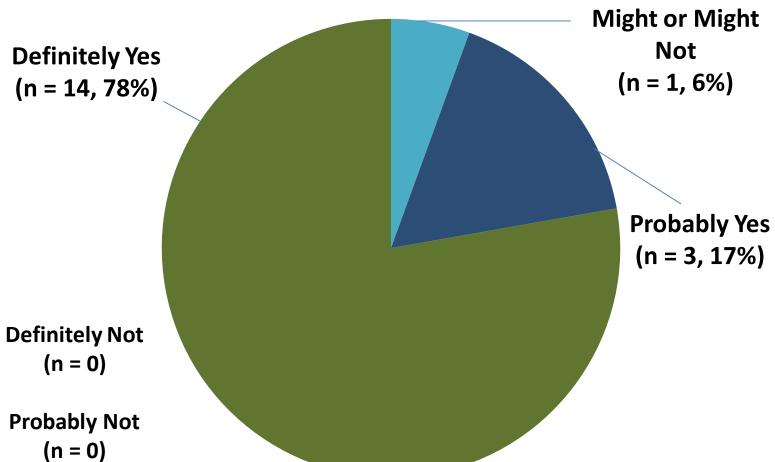
Results

- Feedback was given on all 31 Med Ed abstracts.
- Of 26 submitting authors, 18 (69%) responded to the survey.
- 18 abstracts were accepted for poster presentation, 3 for oral presentation, and 2 were not accepted for presentation.
- All respondents found the feedback helpful (Figure 1)
- 17/18 (94%) would want to receive feedback on future IDWeek abstract submissions (Figure 2)
- 18/18 (100%) wish other scientific meetings would provide feedback on abstracts.





Definitely Yes (n = 14, 78%)



Probably Not

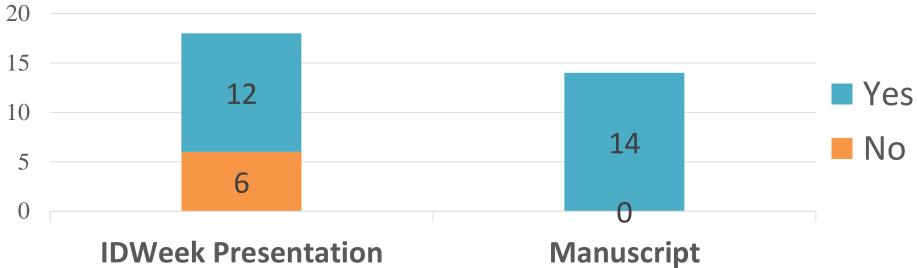
Michael T. Melia, MD¹, Sean Tackett, MD, MPH², Wendy S. Armstrong, MD³, Dana M. Blyth, MD⁴, Erin Bonura, MD⁵, James B. Cutrell, MD⁶, Gerome V. Escota, MD⁷, Vera P. Luther, MD⁸, Saman Nematollahi, MD⁹, Anna K. Person, MD¹⁰, Brian S. Schwartz, MD¹¹

Results

Fig. 1: To what extent was the provided feedback helpful to you?

Fig. 2: If you were to submit another abstract to IDWeek in the future, would you like to receive feedback on it?

Fig. 3: Did You (or Do You Plan to) Incorporate the Feedback into Your...



Among reviewers, common themes included that they:

- 2) Found the work rewarding
- Improved their abstract-reviewing skills 3)
- Planned to use this experience to help trainees write better abstracts 4)
- Felt this activity built community within IDSA 5)
- 6) All would volunteer to provide feedback in the future

- Authors who submitted Medical Education abstracts to IDWeek valued feedback and used it to strengthen their presentations
- Reviewers found it a positive experience & would do it again.
- IDSA and other societies should consider providing feedback for all abstract categories.



1) Provided more attentive reviews – felt responsible to provide thoughtful feedback

Conclusions



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