

Identifying the Problem

In 2010, our program leadership recognized a low level of scholarly productivity among our medical students, residents, and fellows at our department's annual Abstract Day, where learners presented only 13 abstracts that year. Following inquiry of residents, we identified several major roadblocks to scholarship. These roadblocks included program culture and lack of familiarity with translating the experience of caring for a patient into a clinical vignette.

Initial Steps

We assembled a team

- 6 residents and fellows with authorship and/or presentation experience
- Committed to our scholarship vision

We brainstormed ideas for a workshop

- To occur at resident noon conference
- To cover each of the following:
 - Creation of abstracts
 - Assembly of poster and oral (platform) presentations
 - Authorship
 - Answers to common questions

The Workshop

We described creation of an abstract (Fig. 1,2)

- Discerning what to write up
- How many words in each section
- Sentence by sentence construction

We described creation of presentations

- Poster content and aesthetics
- Platform content and delivery



How do I write the abstract?

1. Introduction
2. Case Report
3. Discussion
[400 words]

Figure 1: Overview slide from workshop

Case Report

- Follow the basic rules of medical communication & describe **in sequence**:
 - History & exam
 - Investigative studies
 - Patient's progress
 - Outcome
- Objective
 - Pertinent
 - Do not obscure the case with irrelevant details
- Limit to 250 words

Figure 2: Case report slide from workshop

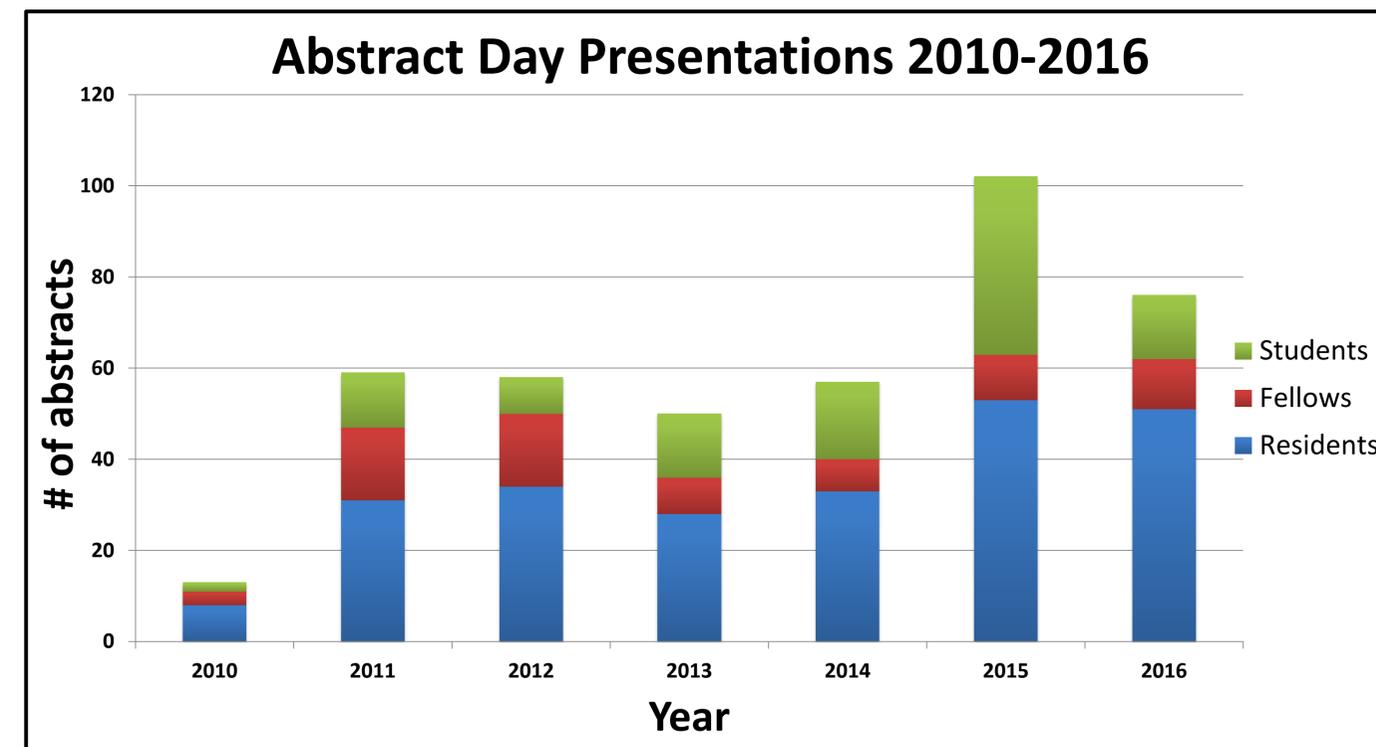
Evolution of Workshop

Expanded audience

- Student groups
- Other residencies
- Rotating residents
- E-communication

Enhanced reach of end result

- Residents council leading Abstract Day
- Winners in multiple categories
- Developed trainee scholarship fund to allow attendance at regional/national meetings



Downstream Effects of Workshop

- Dramatically increased faculty participation in production and evaluation of scholarship
- Four-fold increase in residents’ regional and national presentations
- Realization that specific instruction and removal of obstacles allows residents to realize their potential