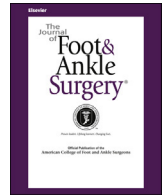




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Original Research

Publication Rates for Oral Manuscript and Poster Presentations From the American College of Foot and Ankle Surgeons: 2010 to 2014

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ABSTRACT

The American College of Foot and Ankle Surgeons (ACFAS) annual conference has served as a premiere platform to disseminate the latest innovations and research in the field of foot and ankle surgery. The quality of national society conferences is often assessed indirectly by analyzing the the journal publication rate of the abstracts presented. The purpose of this retrospective study was to assess the journal publication rate for abstracts (oral manuscripts and posters) accepted for presentation at the ACFAS conference from 2010 to 2014. All accepted abstracts from this period were compiled by the ACFAS office. PubMed, Google Scholar, and Scopus searches were performed using abstract titles and author names. Overall, the journal publication rate was 76.9% (83 of 108) for oral manuscripts and 23.2% (258 of 1113) for poster abstracts. The mean time to publication was 9.6 (range 0 to 44) months and 19.8 (range 0 to 66) months for oral and poster abstracts, respectively. The most common journal for abstract publication was *The Journal of Foot and Ankle Surgery*. Notably, the ACFAS oral manuscript publication rate from 2010 to 2014 (76.9%) exceeded its previously reported rate from 1999 to 2008 (67.5%) and the American Orthopaedic Foot and Ankle Society podium publication rate from 2008 to 2012 (73.7%). To the best of our knowledge, the publication incidence for oral abstracts presented at the ACFAS conference is now the highest reported of any national foot and ankle society conference to date.

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The American College of Foot and Ankle Surgeons (ACFAS) recently celebrated their 75th annual conference, which boasted a record-breaking attendance (>1900 attendees) (1,2). Since the society's inception in 1942, the annual ACFAS conference has served as a premiere platform for disseminating the latest innovations and research in the field of foot and ankle surgery. The number and variety of abstracts submitted by foot and ankle surgeons (FASs) for presentation at the conference has continued to increase annually. Prior to acceptance, submitted abstracts are screened by a selection committee to curtail research unlikely to affect clinical practice and maximize the educational quality for conference attendees. Owing to time constraints on the oral presentations, only research expected to sig-

nificantly impact treatment paradigms and practice are accepted as oral manuscripts. The quality of national society conferences is often assessed indirectly by the journal publication rate of the abstracts presented which typically plateaus within 3 years of the respective conference (3–17). Orthopedic abstract to journal publication rates have ranged from 34% to 73.7% (5–7). Similarly, previous abstract to journal publication rates for the ACFAS from 1999 to 2008 were 67.5% (139 of 206) for oral manuscripts and 24% (198 of 825) for poster abstracts (16,17). Although the field of foot and ankle surgery continues to experience exponential growth, to the best of our knowledge, no study has reevaluated the ACFAS journal publication rate for abstracts presented since 2008. The primary objective of this retrospective study was to assess the journal publication rate for abstracts (oral manuscripts and posters) accepted for presentation at the ACFAS conferences from 2010 to 2014. The secondary objectives included comparing those rates with the ACFAS rates from 1999 to 2008 and with the American Orthopaedic Foot and Ankle Society (AOFAS) rates from 2008 to 2012.

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Table 1

Manuscript presentations: American College of Foot and Ankle Surgeons, 2010 to 2014

Variable	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	Overall
Accepted (n)	19	19	18	22	30	108
Published (n)	16	16	14	17	20	83
Publication rate (%)	84.2	84.2	77.8	77.3	66.7	76.9
Time to publication (mo)						
Mean	16.1	14.5	8.9	4.7	5.0	9.6
Range	0 to 35	0 to 44	0 to 32	0 to 16	0 to 14	0 to 44
Published within 3 y (%)	100	93.8	100	100	100	98.8

Materials and Methods

All abstracts (oral manuscripts and posters) accepted for presentation at ACFAS conferences from 2010 to 2014 were compiled by the Manager of Education Curriculum and Alliances, and the Assistant Director of Education Curriculum and Alliances at the ACFAS office. The titles of the abstracts and author names were entered into a database. The oral manuscript and poster abstracts were grouped separately and according to the year of presentation. Five resident FASs at various postgraduate years (C.J.R., G.P.G., R.I., A.J.O., V.R.R.) then conducted a comprehensive literature search using PubMed, Google Scholar, and Scopus to find all accepted abstracts identified from 2010 to 2014, using July 1, 2017 as the cutoff date. This allowed for a 3-year follow-up period from the most recent conference analyzed, which was desired since the abstract to journal publication rate typically plateaus at this time (3–7). Assigned podium tract lectures, student abstracts, and abstracts from organizations outside of the ACFAS at the annual conference were excluded (16,17).

The titles and author names were searched for individually beginning with the authors' names in PubMed. Considerable consistency between the author names and title in the original abstract and final publication were required for the identification of a match. When the search identified multiple publications by the same author, a standard Boolean operator (AND) was used to combine the author names with the title from the original abstract, similar to previous investigations (16,17). This was repeated as necessary with the other author names using all possible combinations. If no corresponding publication was identified in PubMed, the process was repeated using Google Scholar and, then, Scopus, if necessary. If 2 of the 5 resident FASs failed to identify a match during their independent data search, the abstract was deemed unpublished. If the title of the final publication differed considerably from that of the original abstract and a consensus could not be reached between at least 2 resident FASs, direct communication with the corresponding author provided the final verification (3 oral manuscript publications).

The number of accepted abstracts (oral manuscripts and posters) at the ACFAS conferences from 2010 to 2014 was recorded by year. Only abstracts that went on to achieve journal publication were included, and all other forms of publication were excluded. For each publication, the month and year of the publication was recorded. The time to publication was recorded as the number of months from the initial presentation at the ACFAS annual conference to the month of publication (online ahead of print or in print) rounded to the nearest whole month. For abstracts published prior to presentation at the conference, the interval to publication in months was assigned a value of 0. The number of accepted abstracts, publication rate, mean time to publication, and publication rate within 3 years of conference presentation were calculated for each annual conference and collectively. The 3 most common journals of abstract (oral manuscripts and posters) publication were calculated separately for the oral manuscripts and posters and compared. These data are summarized in Tables 1–3. The number of accepted abstracts, publication rate, mean interval to publication, and most common journals of abstract (oral manuscripts and posters) publication were then compared between the ACFAS from 2010 to 2014 and the ACFAS from 1999 to 2008 (Tables 4 and 5). Finally, the number of accepted oral manuscript and podium abstracts, publication rate, mean interval to publication, and the most common journals of abstract publication were compared between the ACFAS from 2010 to 2014 and the AOFAS from 2008 to 2012 (Table 6).

Table 2

Poster presentations: American College of Foot and Ankle Surgeons, 2010 to 2014

Variable	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	Overall
Accepted	174	193	197	315	234	1113
Published	36	45	48	77	52	258
Publication rate (%)	20.7	23.3	24.4	24.4	22.2	23.2
Time to publication (mo)						
Mean	34.8	20.2	17.3	17.8	14.5	19.8
Range	0 to 53	0 to 60	0 to 66	0 to 49	0 to 41	0 to 66
Published within 3 y (%)	88.9	77.8	85.4	89.6	92.3	86.8

Statistical Analysis

Microsoft Excel worksheets (Microsoft, Redmond, WA) were used to collect and store all the data. Categorical continuous data were summarized using counts, percentages, mean, and standard deviation. Two-tailed Student's *t* tests were used to determine the significance between continuous variables, and Fisher's exact test was used to assess the trends in abstract publications over time. An odds ratio was calculated to determine whether any differences existed between the manuscript and poster publication rates, the mean time to publication, and publication within 3 years of conference presentation. Additionally, an odds ratio was calculated to determine the differences between variables for ACFAS 2010 to 2014, ACFAS 1999 to 2008, and AOFAS 2008 to 2012. A *p* value of $\leq .05$ was considered statistically significant.

Results

From 2010 to 2014, 1221 abstracts (oral manuscripts and posters) were accepted for presentation at the ACFAS conference. Overall, the abstract publication rate for 108 oral manuscripts and 1113 posters

Table 3

Overall manuscript and poster presentations: American College of Foot and Ankle Surgeons, 2010 to 2014

Variable	Manuscript	Poster
Accepted (n)	108	1113
Published (n)	83	258
Publication rate (%)	76.9	23.2
Time to publication (mo)		
Mean	9.6	19.8
Range	0 to 44	0 to 66
Most common journal of publication		
JFAS	51 (61.4)	160 (62.0)
Foot and Ankle Specialist	12 (14.5)	37 (14.3)
Foot and Ankle International	4 (4.8)	0 (0.0)
JAPMA	0 (0.0)	11 (4.3)

Abbreviations: JAPMA, *Journal of the American Podiatric Medical Association*; JFAS, *The Journal of Foot and Ankle Surgery*.

Table 4

Overall manuscript presentations: American College of Foot and Ankle Surgeons, 2010 to 2014 Versus 1999 to 2008

Variable	2010 to 2014	1999 to 2008
Accepted (n)	108	206
Published (n)	83	134
Publication rate (%)	76.9	67.5
Time to publication (mo)		
Mean	9.6	14.5
Range	0 to 44	–34 to 60
Most common journal of publication (n)		
JFAS	51 (61.4)	105 (75.5)
Foot and Ankle Specialist	12 (14.5)	0 (0.0)
Foot and Ankle International	4 (4.8)	0 (0.0)
JAPMA	0 (0.0)	13 (9.4)
Diabetes Care	0 (0.0)	6 (4.3)

Data in parentheses are percentages.

Abbreviations: JAPMA, *Journal of the American Podiatric Medical Association*; JFAS, *The Journal of Foot and Ankle Surgery*.

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