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2. DISCLOSURE: Financial disclosure information is required for EVERY author/co-author utilizing the AAOS Disclosure Program. You must have a current disclosure on file to proceed with the submission process. Co-authors without a current disclosure will be removed from the final program.

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- The name and email for every co-author is required for submission. Incomplete submissions will not be reviewed by the program committee.

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IMPORTANT: If you are both the submitter and a co-author, you must enter your name as a co-author in the author stream. Submitters will not be listed as a co-author unless added as one.

4. FORMATTING:

- Topics: include all non-traumatic and underlying traumatic conditions involving the spine as well as neoplastic conditions of the spine.

- Line Spacing: single space text, double space between paragraphs.

- Length: maximum of 500 words, not including references.

- Blind abstract: omit any references to authors or author institutions.

- Unblinded abstract lists all author information.

- Images: Images can be embedded in a Word document. Reference them in the body of the abstract as “fig 1” or “table a”. Images are limited to a maximum of two (2).
4. **CONTENT:** An English language abstract must be in the terminology familiar to spine specialists. The text should be succinct and substantive. The abstract must include:

1) **Introduction:** state the purpose of the study-what question was asked and why;
2) **Materials/Methods:** describe the methods used to seek the answer;
3) **Results:** summarize the results;
4) **Conclusion:** discuss the findings with respect to their relationship to existing Knowledge, overall significance, etc.

**Text:** Some scientific characters such as the Greek alphabet do not reliably transmit over the Internet. It is recommended that the default character set for your browser be used and that whenever possible, special characters be spelled out or avoided.

Omit any references to specific commercial devices and commercial company names.

5. **UPLOADING ABSTRACTS:**

- Upload a blind (no references to author, institutions, or country within the body or title of the abstract) and unblind version of your abstract as directed.
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The following will be requested at the time of submission:

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**RESEARCH AWARDS:**

First, second and third place awards for outstanding, unpublished clinical, basic science and resident/fellow research papers will be offered.

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Candidates for all three awards will be identified from the top five selected abstracts in each category of on-line submissions as chosen by the Awards Committee. Selected authors will be asked to submit a short manuscript amplifying the abstract which will be reviewed and scored.