



# PEER REVIEW and the **MIDWIFERY RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM**

There are many ways to approach and conduct research. Research can be defined as “the systematic collection of information using carefully designed and controlled methods that answer a specific question objectively and as accurately as possible.”<sup>1</sup> It can involve qualitative, quantitative, mixed, pragmatic or participatory methods and can be informed by various perspectives – e.g., phenomenologic, ethnographic, or feminist approaches.

For the Midwifery Research Symposium, abstracts will be accepted for two presentation formats: oral presentations and rapid-fire presentations.

ORAL PRESENTATIONS	RAPID FIRE PRESENTATIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Primary or secondary research conducted by one of the presenters.</li><li>• Involves qualitative, quantitative or mixed-method methodologies.</li><li>• Can address clinical or social science topics.</li><li>• Must be completed research.</li></ul>	<p>Shares:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• a research question or idea for further research;<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>» a piece of primary or secondary research involving qualitative, quantitative or mixed-method methodologies that is a work in progress; or</li><li>» findings alone from completed primary or secondary research involving qualitative, quantitative or mixed-method methodologies.</li></ul></li><li>• Can address clinical or social science topics.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Involves a structured approach to the collection and analysis of information/data.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>» Research is systematic: a pre-defined series of steps are followed to arrive at a conclusion.</li><li>» Research is organized, informed by a structure and method and limited to a defined scope.</li><li>» Research typically addresses a specific research question or tests an explicit hypothesis.</li></ul></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Replaces a poster presentation and conveys a “big” idea in a short period of time.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>» Describes why your topic is important to midwifery in a clear and concise manner.</li><li>» Describes at most 2-3 key points about your topic.</li><li>» Short, elevator-style pitch that leaves audience with a clear idea of your important take-home messages.</li></ul></li></ul>

<sup>1</sup>Rees C. Introduction to Research for Midwives. Philadelphia: Churchill Livingstone, 2011.

## HOW DOES THE PEER REVIEW PROCESS WORK?

- Research-based submissions are blindly reviewed by members of the Midwifery Research Work Group. The AOM's Midwifery Research Work Group provides guidance to the AOM regarding initiatives to support midwifery research.
- Submissions must meet criteria for the oral or rapid-fire presentations.
- Presenters will be notified via email whether their submissions have been accepted or not, and in what format (e.g., oral presentation, rapid fire presentation).

## PEER REVIEW CRITERIA

Abstracts will be blindly peer reviewed based on the criteria described below. Abstracts that describe work in progress will be considered for rapid-fire presentations only. Any research that involves human participants will be required to have undergone a research ethics review consistent with the principles and processes outlined in the second Tri-Council Policy Statement on Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans.<sup>2</sup>

Oral presentations will be reviewed on all six criteria whereas rapid-fire presentations will be judged on the criteria applicable to the focus of the submitted abstract. Rapid-fire presentations that describe a research idea or work in progress may be judged on the first three categories only.

CRITERIA FOR PEER REVIEW OF RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS	
<b>Clearly-stated Objectives</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concise and justified statement of purpose and aim.</li> <li>• Includes research questions and/or hypotheses.</li> </ul>	/3 points
<b>Significance</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Addresses an important problem or knowledge gap.</li> <li>• Investigates a research question related to normal birth, midwifery values or other issues or topics of importance to midwives.</li> <li>• Relevant to membership or symposium theme.</li> </ul>	/3 points
<b>Methods</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Described in sufficient detail to provide evidence of logical consistency between research questions and methods.</li> </ul> <p><b>Quantitative approach:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appropriateness of design, sampling, sample size, procedures (including measurement / instruments), power analysis, data analysis, limitations, rigour.</li> </ul> <p><b>Qualitative approach:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appropriateness of design re: research questions, sampling, sample size, data collection and analysis procedures, limitations, trustworthiness.</li> </ul>	/3 points
<b>Findings</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clearly stated in relationship to the research questions and purposes.</li> <li>• Conclusions are logical and substantiated.</li> <li>• Findings contribute to midwifery research knowledge base.</li> </ul>	/3 points
<b>Discussion</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accurate interpretation of results presented, including recommendations for practice, education, research, and/or policy.</li> </ul>	/3 points
<b>Overall</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quality of abstract; consistency; scholarship; clarity and flow.</li> </ul>	/3 points
<b>Total:</b>	<b>/18 points</b>

**For more information about peer review process please contact Mel Hartzell, Knowledge Translation and Research Specialist.**

<sup>2</sup>CIHR; NSERC; SSHRC. Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans. 2014. Available: [http://www.pre.ethics.gc.ca/pdf/eng/tcps2-2014/TCPS\\_2\\_FINAL\\_Web.pdf](http://www.pre.ethics.gc.ca/pdf/eng/tcps2-2014/TCPS_2_FINAL_Web.pdf)