

Research for the Whole Person: 13 Years of Research Day at PCOM

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INTRODUCTION

As PCOM celebrates its 125th anniversary in 2024, PCOM's researchers gather at its 13th annual Research Day. Research Day was created to give students who weren't able to present at a conference the opportunity to gain experience creating and presenting a poster; over the years, the event has grown exponentially, highlighting the importance of research to PCOM's mission.

Research Day showcases the many types of research conducted at PCOM. Posters have included completed research, research in progress, research proposals, lab research, clinical research, case reports, literature reviews, library and education techniques, and even presentations from high school students.

BEGINNINGS

PCOM's first annual Research Day was organized by the PCOM Research Committee in 2011. After a keynote speech by Shanaz R. Butt, participants presented their research posters to judges and interested onlookers. The event, open to students, faculty, and staff, featured 24 posters (19 on Philadelphia campus and 5 on Georgia campus), with one student on each campus winning a grand prize and delivering a short presentation on their research. Research Day has garnered an ever-growing number of presenters, judges, and attendees over all campuses. Since 2016, each campus's event has had its own keynote speaker. South Georgia campus, whose first students matriculated in 2019, began participating in 2021's virtual Research Week and hosted its own in-person events starting in 2022.

COMMUNITY



First Annual Research Day, 2011, PA Campus

Through the years, Research Day has been an opportunity for collaboration outside of PCOM. Many of our presenters work with researchers at other institutions, from students on rotation to faculty continuing long-term research collaborations. Students from Olney Charter High School and Esperanza College, which has partnered with PCOM in its Science Math and Summer Academy, have also presented posters at Research Day. PCOM's keynote speakers have come from a variety of institutions, from local institutions like Drexel University and Georgia Institute of Technology to national centers like the National

Osteopathic Heritage Organization and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

PCOM's generous community supporters have allowed students to win prizes for their work. In 2017, Sheryl Miller, MD established the David Miller, DO '60 Memorial Endowed Research Day Awards for Philadelphia Campus. Every year afterwards, multiple David Miller awards have been awarded to Philadelphia students in categories such as Best in Show, Excellence in Research, and Alzheimer's Research. Other community sponsors have consistently contributed to the event, along with perennial PCOM sponsors like the Center for Chronic Disorders of Aging, the Division of Research, and Sigma Xi's PCOM chapter.

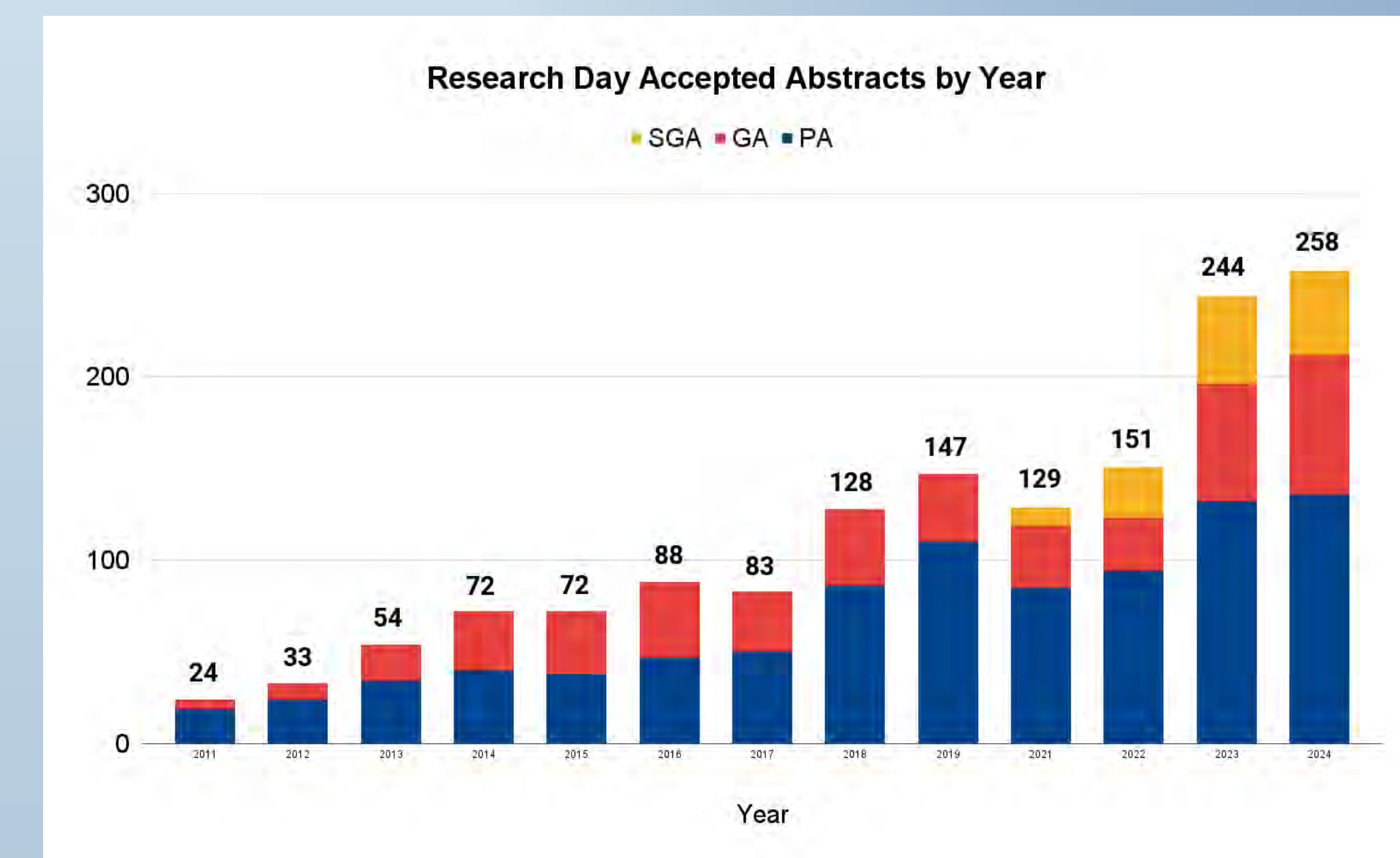
When the COVID-19 pandemic closed all of PCOM's campuses in 2020, PCOM's 10th annual Research Day was postponed. By the next year, PCOM was able to apply its new expertise with online instruction to hold an entirely virtual Research Week 2021. Presenters uploaded short videos to accompany their posters, capitalizing on the virtual conference platform to let all attendees see presenters from any campus. South Georgia campus, whose first students matriculated in 2019, participated for the first time.



Twelfth Annual Research Day, 2023, SGA Campus

REACH

Upon returning to campus in 2022, Research Day has continued to grow, and the influence of the research presented at the event has expanded. Not only have news organizations in Philadelphia, Suwanee, and Moultrie reported on Research Day, but posters presented at Research Day have been presented at international conferences and been adapted into peer-reviewed articles.



In addition, many Research Day posters and abstracts are freely available on DigitalCommons@PCOM, where they're viewed all over the world. One research poster presented by Alex Scott in 2018 ("Efficacy of the Mnemonic Device "MARCH PAWS" as a Checklist for Paramedics during Tactical Field Care and Tactical Evacuation") has been downloaded over 16,000 times.

2024's 13th Annual Research Day is the largest yet, its 258 accepted abstracts a 975% increase from the 24 posters presented in 2011. As PCOM looks to the future during its 125th anniversary, expect Research Day to grow and change along with it.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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