



## “Harvey G. Roth, D.O. Memorial Controversies in OB/GYN”

Guidelines and Judging Criteria

Thursday, June 17, 2021

### I. Purpose and Rationale

Two of the OB/GYN Interpersonal Communication Skill Milestones focus on Informed Consent and Communication with Patients and Families. Residents need to acquire the skill to present unbiased information on both sides of a controversial topic in order to properly assist patients in the decision making process. This unique educational program provides an opportunity for residents to explore the opposing sides of current controversies in OB/GYN through a debate format. Residents will be expected to argue only for the side of the issue to which they are assigned.

### II. Presentation Guidelines

- Time will be strictly enforced as follows:

- 1) Ten minutes of opening statement by Team A (pro).
- 2) Ten minutes of opening statement by Team B (con).
- 3) Five minutes of rebuttal by Team B.
- 4) Five minutes of rebuttal by Team A.

Speakers will be cut off at the end of the appointed time.

- Visuals may be used in the primary presentation but are limited to computer projected PowerPoint. All PowerPoint presentations must be preloaded for the debates. **PowerPoint presentations are due** in the SCS Central Office **before 11:59 p.m. Tuesday, June 15, 2021 to Sam Wisniewski at samw@msu.edu**. Teams that do not have their PowerPoint slides in to the SCS Office by this time will have 10 points deducted from their final score.
- Rebuttals must respond to the opponent’s presentation and no prepared visuals may be used for the rebuttal.
- Format consists of an opening statement, followed by arguments for the position substantiated by a brief review and meta-analysis of the literature.
- Teams will be seated on opposing sides and may have 2 to 4 speakers for each side.
- Introduction of the speakers will be made by the hospital program director.
- Coordination for the event, direction for an official timekeeper, introduction of the topic and hospitals that will make the presentation for each side will be the responsibility of the educational day coordinator.
- Professionalism should be displayed with appropriate business dress and appropriate scholarly protocol.

### III. Judging Criteria

Each side will be judged according to the following criteria: a concise statement of the issue, organization of the presentation, integration of the research literature, summary of the issue and recommendation for action, and response to and rebuttal of the opposing side’s arguments (see attached judging sheet). Judges will critique the debates but will not declare a winner. The winner



of each debate will be determined by points awarded by judges and will be announced at the end of the day prior to the first three place recognition.

The winning team for the day will receive the Harvey Cup and an educational grant of \$500 for their OB/GYN residency program. The winner for the day will be the team with the greatest cumulative points given by the judges. Second and third place recognition will be given as well.

**IV. Suggestions for Debating:** Prepare your debate materials as if you are going to counsel a patient on a particular controversial topic. You would normally need to be familiar with both sides of the controversy in order to provide your patients with balanced information. For this educational exercise you will be responsible for arguing only one side of the controversy, defending your statements with sound clinical judgment and evidence-based research. A separate SCS program will argue the opposite position. As with counseling a patient you will need to be very familiar with both sides of the controversy in order to be effective. The debate will be judged primarily on the cogency and clinical relevance of the material presented and the integration of research. As in traditional debate, the burden of proof falls on the affirmative side. The negative must simply refute the affirmative statement but need not propose any action on its own.

- You must listen carefully to your opponents. Rebuttals are only as strong as your ability to undermine your opponents' arguments with evidence or carefully constructed counterarguments of your own.
- Arguments should be made from logical constructions, almost like a mathematical proof. You should avoid statements that play on emotions or that are not founded in credible research evidence.
- Arguments should be supported with evidence-based research. Avoid citing sources that are not based in peer-reviewed research.
- You will be cut off at the end of the time limit. Craft your response carefully to ensure that you have made your argument in the time allowed or you will leave your argument hanging.
- Remember that the first and the last impressions are the most important. Make sure that you have good opening and closing statements. Your closing statement must address the argument of your opponents.
- Don't worry about getting every bit of information out there. It is more important that you have clear concise argumentation. Strive for brevity and clarity in your presentation.
- In the conclusion, restate the most convincing evidence that supports (Pro) or the most difficult question (Con) that refutes the evidence.

#### **V. Debate Format Tips**

- A member of the Pro team will give an opening statement in which he/she states why this group is supportive of the issue. He/she will briefly state at least three pieces of convincing evidence that are the primary points that the team will use. (10 minutes)
- A member of the Con team will give an opening statement in which he/she will state why the group disagrees with the issue as it has been stated in the proposition. He/she will briefly state at least three pieces of evidence that disproves the proposition. (10 minutes)



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- The Con team will challenge the Pro team arguments and provide additional evidence why the affirmative statement of the proposition is to be rejected. The Con will make a concluding summary that will drive home the final point on why the affirmative argument is to be rejected. (5 minutes)
- The Pro team will challenge the Con's opening statement and argue against the Con team's supporting evidence. The Pro will then make a concluding summary that restates and affirms the proposition. (5 minutes)



Harvey G. Roth, D.O., Memorial Controversies in OB/GYN Day  
Debate Judging Criteria

PRESENTER: \_\_\_\_\_

TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ EVALUATOR: \_\_\_\_\_

Each category has a maximum of 10 points. 9-10 = outstanding; 7-8 = exceeded expectations; 5-6 = solidly met expectations; 3-4 = needs to be improved; 1-2 did not meet expectations.

Content Categories	Rating	Comments
<b>1. Content:</b> The argument was stated clearly and concisely.		
<b>2. Organization:</b> The presentation had consistent well-defined structure with coherent points.		
<b>3. Research:</b> The presentation integrated credible peer reviewed research.		
<b>4. Research:</b> The presentation integrated key points of the literature clearly and concisely.		
<b>5. Adequacy of summary:</b> The summary included appropriate generalizations.		
<b>6. Presentation:</b> Arguments were made with appropriate language and rhetoric.		
<b>7. Rebuttal:</b> Arguments of the opposing side were answered concisely, clearly, and coherently.		
<b>8. Pace:</b> The material was appropriately condensed to fit the time allotted.		
<b>9. Clinical relevance:</b> Clinical relevance and application were clear and concise.		
<b>Total Score</b>		