

## **ABSTRACT SUBMISSION GUIDELINES & EXAMPLE**

### **HMD - Call for Presentations**

**Format:** WORD document only (no pdf's)  
**Document Name:** FirstName.LastName.HMD2026  
**Email Subject Line:** FirstName.LastName.HMD2026

**Font:** Garamond 12 pt

**Margins:** Top and Bottom 1"  
Right and Left 1.25"  
Single spaced  
Remove all Markups

**Title:** **Bold and centered**  
(1 line space)

**Author:** **By** (centered)  
**FirstName LastName** (centered)

**Affiliation:** **Dept., Program, University, etc.** (centered)

**Preceptor:** (if you have one). Having a preceptor is strongly encouraged;  
and is a requirement for University of Calgary students.  
(1 line space)

Serendipity, Super Glue and Surgery: Cyanoacrylates as Hemostatic Aids in the  
Vietnam War

By  
Chantelle Champagne  
Faculty of Medicine, University of Alberta  
Preceptor: Dr. Sasha Mullally, PhD

In 1942, H.W. Coover was working to develop a clear plastic for WWII machine gun sights. The compound he developed, cyanoacrylate, proved to be a complete failure. After setting the formula aside for many years, Coover was inspired to rethink the use of the compound and began to explore its potential as a strong, quick drying glue. In 1951, what we now know

**Paragraphs:** - No indents  
- 1 line space between paragraphs



**Justification:** Full

**Length:** Not to exceed 300 words

**Type of presentation:** **Oral platform presentation preferred.** (centered)  
**Poster platform presentation preferred.** (centered)

**Sources:**

Include short in-text citations re: articles or books (Name, Year, page-range), but no reference lists are being sought. Please just add 1-2 sentences in the bottom paragraph of your abstract, as to what the source basis/es is/are that form/s the background of your research.

**SEE ABSTRACT EXAMPLE BELOW:**

## **Serendipity, Super Glue and Surgery: Cyanoacrylates as Hemostatic Aids in the Vietnam War**

By

Chantelle Champagne

Faculty of Medicine, University of Alberta

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In 1942, H.W. Coover was working to develop a clear plastic for WWII machine gun sights. The compound he developed, cyanoacrylate, proved to be a complete failure. After setting the formula aside for many years, Coover was inspired to rethink the use of the compound and began to explore its potential as a strong, quick drying glue. In 1951, what we now know as “superglue” was first marketed as “Eastman 910”. It was not long before Coover and his colleagues began exploring its potential as a biological adhesive.

In the early 1960’s, Coover, in collaboration with Ethicon Co., applied for FDA approval of cyanoacrylate glues as tissue adhesives. The most dramatic and innovative medical application of cyanoacrylates was as a hemostatic agent during trauma surgery. This presentation will outline the aforementioned use of Coover’s cyanoacrylates, discussing the promising outcomes of superglue in military surgery of the 1960s, and explain why it did not achieve widespread usage outside of the Vietnam conflict.

Using scientific journal articles, medical reviews and case studies of cyanoacrylate use in military casualties, this presentation will focus on the most extensive medico-surgical application of superglue: its use by American forces in Vietnam. Armed with Freon propelled n-butyl cyanoacrylate spray developed by the military, specially trained surgical teams achieved instant hemostasis in about thirty, otherwise fatal, cases of hemorrhage. Although not all patients survived, experts did not attribute the deaths to complications of cyanoacrylate use. Despite the dramatic results observed in Vietnam, further studies required for FDA approval of this “surgical superglue” were not economically feasible for Coover and Ethicon Co. and the project was reluctantly abandoned. It was not until 1998 that the FDA approved cyanoacrylates for medical use; Coover’s dreams of saving countless lives with his tissue adhesive are finally being realized in modern surgery.

**Oral platform presentation preferred.**

**For more information and materials:**

Calgary History of Medicine and Health Care Program (<https://hom.ucalgary.ca/hmd>).

**DEADLINE:**

Submit abstract by 11:59pm on January 4th, 2026 to [marcia.garcia@ucalgary.ca](mailto:marcia.garcia@ucalgary.ca)

**GUIDELINES:**

Follow the guidelines in this ABSTRACT SUBMISSION GUIDELINES & EXAMPLE instruction document

**NOTE:**

If you do not receive a reply email by **January 9th, 2026** with “RECEIVED” in the subject line, kindly reach out to the submission email above.