**Innovations in Medical Education**

**Brevity is Key**

**Title**

* The title should be clear and accurately represent the purpose of the study.
* Should have key words that capture the reader’s attention and potentially are searchable.

**Authors**

* Need to determine author order up front.
* Identify the style used by your target journal and stick with that!
* Ensure corresponding author’s information is current.

**Key Words**:

Check instructions for authors & <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/mesh/MBrowser.html>

WORD COUNT: Usually MUCH less than original research paper (2000 words, sometimes substantially less depending on journal)

**Abstract (Check Instructions for authors word count =usually ≤250)**

Problem

Approach

Outcomes

Next Steps**Problem**

1. **Background**:
   * Addresses an approach, topic, question, or problem that has *not previously been well documented or studied in depth*.
   * Literature-supported rationale for approach you are using.
   * Prior publication by the author(s) of substantial portions of the innovation description or data is appropriately acknowledged.
2. **Significance.** Study purpose or question is clearly stated.

**Approach**

*Note much of this is based on Academic Medicine guidelines for innovation. Other journals may have similar but slight differences in criteria. Read guidelines closely!!!*

**For Innovation Reports with a Research or Evaluation Component**  
Examples: single-setting, quality-improvement interventions, pilot studies, needs assessments, preliminary outcomes on emerging challenges

* Define the time period(s), setting(s), and participating population(s) for the intervention.
* Include a statement of IRB approval/exemption
* Summarize all methodology, including statistical analyses.

**For Innovation Reports without a Research or Evaluation Component**  
Examples: preliminary or single-setting implementations of innovative approaches to widespread challenges; descriptions of small-scale innovations.

* Define the time period(s), setting(s), and participating population(s) involved in developing and implementing the innovation.
* Describe in detail the implementation of the innovation and any criteria for innovation’s success.

**Outcomes**

1. Use Tables/figures efficiently and effectively: easy to read/understand, summarize the main findings. Don’t duplicate too much in the body of the paper. Remember you usually have a limited number ( nor more than 3)
2. **Innovations with a research component**: Report results using raw numbers in addition to percentages.
3. **Innovations without a research/evaluation component**: Critically examine the outcomes of the innovation, including whether/how it met stated goals and the implications of the outcomes in the context of the larger challenge used to frame your work.

**Next Steps**

1. **Strengths & Limitations**
2. **Implications and next steps:** Suggest next steps for addressing this challenge on a larger scale.
3. **Acknowledgments**: Thank helpers and recognize funding sources where appropriate.**References: Much fewer, usually no more than 10**

**(**Format per journal specifications**)**

**Tables /Figures/ Appendices: no more than 3**

Make sure legible and axes are not so tiny that they are unreadable.