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**FELLOWS RESEARCH AND THESIS  
DEFENSE SUMMARY**

**FELLOW'S NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**TERMINAL OBJECTIVE:** The fellow should be able to participate fully in the theoretical and technical aspects of clinical and/or basic science research projects.

**ENABLING OBJECTIVES:** The fellow should write a thesis which is a scholarly publication and be able to defend it according to the following outline:

Please use the following ranking system from 1-5 (**5 = Best**) to evaluate the fellows thesis.

**A. Hypothesis (5 = Best)**

- | <b>5</b>                 | <b>4</b>                 | <b>3</b>                 | <b>2</b>                 | <b>1</b>                 |   |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | What are the study objectives?                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | What was the population to be studied?                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Was the study population representative of the target population? |

Comments:

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**B. Design of the Investigation (5 = Best)**

- | <b>5</b>                 | <b>4</b>                 | <b>3</b>                 | <b>2</b>                 | <b>1</b>                 |   |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | What was the study design and was it appropriate for addressing the study hypothesis? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Were there possible sources of bias or confounding factors?                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | How were cases and controls selected?   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | What was the statistical power of the study?  |

Comments:

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**C. Observations (5 = Best)**

- | <b>5</b>                 | <b>4</b>                 | <b>3</b>                 | <b>2</b>                 | <b>1</b>                 |   |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Were there clear definitions of the terms used (i.e. diagnostic criteria, measurements made and outcome variables)? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Were the observations reliable and reproducible?  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | What were the sensitivity, specificity and predictive values of the methods?  |

Comments:

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**D. Presentation of Findings (5 = Best)**

**5    4    3    2    1**

Were the findings presented clearly, objectively, and in sufficient detail?

Were the findings internally consistent? (ie. did the numbers add up properly and could the tables be reconciled etc.)

Comments:

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**E. Analysis of the Results (5 = Best)**

**5    4    3    2    1**

Were the data worthy of statistical analysis? If so, were the methods of analysis appropriate to the source and nature of the data?

Were the appropriate assumptions met for the statistical methods utilized?

Were there sufficient analyses to ascertain whether “significant difference” might, in fact, have been due to a lack of comparability of the groups: (i.e. age, sex, clinical characteristics etc.) ?

Was there an improper use of statistical techniques?

Was there mention of the type of test used or the significance level?

Was there use of measured sensitivity without specificity?

Comments:

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**F. Conclusions of Summary (5 = Best)**

**5    4    3    2    1**

Which conclusions were justified by the findings?

Were the conclusions relevant to the hypothesis?

Comments:

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**G. Redesign the Study**

If the study could be improved, how should the candidate revise the experimental design in order to provide reliable and valid information relevant to the questions under study?

Comments:

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**H. Breadth and Depth of Subject Matter**

Each candidate may be asked about references cited in their thesis. The candidate also will be judged based upon their knowledge of the literature related to the subject of their thesis.

Comments:

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**I. IRB Approval**

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Number \_\_\_\_\_

**J. Additional Comments:**

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Signature of Reviewer \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_