



Resource List for Writing your Abstract

Please note that copyright applies to abstracts

Alexandrov, A. V., & Hennerici, M. G. (2007). Writing good abstracts. *Cerebrovascular Diseases*, 23(4), 256-259. Retrieved from

<https://ezp.lib.unimelb.edu.au/login?url=https://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=mnh&AN=17199082&site=eds-live>

Introduction: Results: Conclusions: Writing an abstract means to extract and summarize (AB - absolutely, STR - straightforward, ACT - actual data presentation and interpretation). Thousands of abstracts are submitted to stroke conferences each year. The following suggestions may improve the chances of your work being selected for presentation, and to communicate results in the most efficient and unambiguous way.

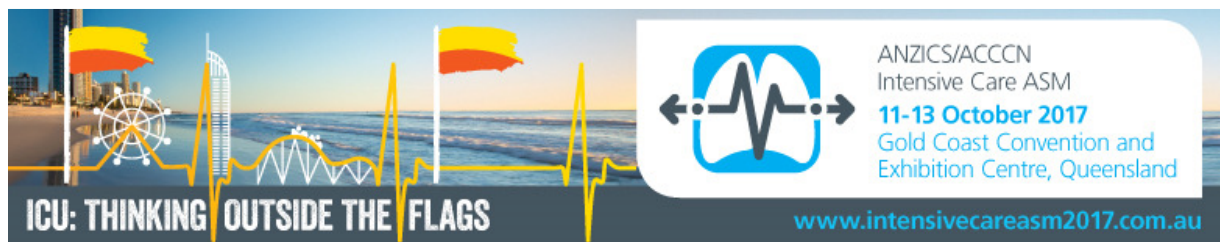
TITLE AND STRUCTURE: Make the title dynamic and informative, rather than descriptive. Structure the abstract following the IMRaD (Introduction, Methods, Results and Discussion) principle for your future original paper where background would become Introduction and conclusions would enter Discussion. Select the appropriate category for submission carefully. This determines which experts grade the abstract and the session where your competitors represent their work. If selected appropriately, your abstract is more likely to be graded by peers with similar interests and familiarity with your work or field.

Methods should describe the study design and tools of data acquisition shortly, not data. Provide data that answer the research question. Describe most important data with numbers and statistics. Make your point with data, not speculations and opinions. Abbreviations should be avoided and only be used after they have been spelled out or defined. Common mistakes include failure to state the hypothesis, rationale for the study, sample size and conclusions. Highlight the novelty of your work by carefully chosen straightforward wording. Conclusions have to be based on the present study findings. Make sure your abstract is clear, concise and follows all rules. Show your draft to colleagues for critique, and if you are not a native English speaker show it to a person who can improve/correct your text. Remember that accepted abstracts of completed original research should be followed by published original papers - if this is not intended or fails, it may indicate an impaired ability to succeed in scientific writing and an academic career.

Andrade, C. (2011). How to write a good abstract for a scientific paper or conference presentation. *Indian Journal of Psychiatry*, 53(2), 172-175. Retrieved from

<https://ezp.lib.unimelb.edu.au/login?url=https://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=a9h&AN=63190887&site=eds-live>

Abstracts of scientific papers are sometimes poorly written, often lack important information, and occasionally convey a biased picture. This paper provides detailed suggestions, with examples, for writing the background, methods, results, and conclusions sections of a good abstract. The primary target of this paper is the young researcher; however, authors with all levels of experience may find useful ideas in the paper.



Boullata, J. I., & Mancuso, C. E. (2007). A "how-to" guide in preparing abstracts and poster presentations. *Nutrition in Clinical Practice*, 22(6), 641-646. Retrieved from <https://ezp.lib.unimelb.edu.au/login?url=https://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=cin20&AN=2009744112&site=eds-live>

The preparation of an abstract or poster to share information from a project or case report with colleagues is a professional goal for many nutrition support practitioners. This paper provides an approach to help practitioners prepare an abstract for submission and subsequently a poster for presentation at a meeting. A nutrition support question that required collecting and evaluating information, or a unique patient case or case series, can serve as the focus of an abstract and subsequent poster. The professional meeting selected should be appropriate for the abstract topic, and the authors should closely adhere to the organization's abstract submission guidelines. The well-prepared abstract will then serve as the outline for the poster content; the visual aspect of the poster is also important to effectively communicate the information to colleagues at the meeting. Adequate time is required to prepare both the abstract and the poster in order to fittingly reflect the value of the information. Efforts in preparing the abstract will be worthwhile once the abstract has been accepted by reviewers for a poster session at the meeting. Likewise, the effort in preparing the poster in advance allows the presenter to enjoy the poster session and discuss the project with colleagues.

Frazer, A. (2012). How to write an effective conference abstract. *Emergency Nurse*, 20(1), 30-31. Retrieved from <https://ezp.lib.unimelb.edu.au/login?url=https://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=cmedm&AN=22690476&site=eds-live>

Every year the RCN Emergency Care Association asks people who want to present at its annual conference to submit abstracts of their work. These requests produce about 100 abstracts of varying quality, which suggests that some nurses are uncertain about how to construct them. This is unfortunate because excellent work can be rejected by reviewers if the associated abstracts are of poor quality. There are few guidelines for people intending to write their first conference abstracts so this article offers some advice on how to do so to maximise the chance of successful application.

Happell, B. (2007). Hitting the target! A no tears approach to writing an abstract for a conference presentation. *International Journal of Mental Health Nursing*, 16(6), 447- 452. doi:10.1111/j.1447-0349.2007.00501.x

From the author's experience in reviewing abstracts for conference presentations, nurses do not find it easy or straightforward to write an abstract, nor do they appear to fully understand its aim and purpose. The aim of this paper is to provide a clear understanding of the role of the abstract in the context of conference presentations and to provide a practical tool to guide nurses through the process of writing an abstract for a conference presentation in terms of both the structure and the content. Tips on what to avoid when writing an abstract are included.



ICU: THINKING OUTSIDE THE FLAGS

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Happell, B. (2008). Conference presentations: a guide to writing the abstract. *Nurse Researcher*, 15(4), 79-87. Retrieved from <http://ovidsp.ovid.com/ovidweb.cgi?T=JS&CSC=Y&NEWS=N&PAGE=fulltext&D=medl&AN=18700662>

Brenda Happell explains the role of the abstract in conference presentations and provides a practical guide to help nurses through the process of writing one. She also gives tips on what to avoid.

McNamara, Grannell, M., Watson, R. G., & Bouchier-Hayes, D. J. (2001). The research abstract: worth getting it right. *Irish Journal of Medical Science*, 170(1), 38- 40.

BACKGROUND: Scientific merit and clarity are critical in evaluation of quality in research. We hypothesised that avoidable errors of presentation adversely impact on abstract selection for scientific meetings. AIM: To prospectively evaluate compliance with abstract guidelines among abstracts submitted to a national surgical scientific meeting.

METHODS: Compliance of all submitted abstracts with 13 instructions to authors was compared using ANOVA and Chi-squared tests. Results are expressed as mean (standard deviation, range). **RESULTS:** Of 45 abstracts submitted, only 8 (17%) complied with all guidelines. Rejected abstracts were less concise than accepted abstracts (280.5 +/- 73.8 words vs. 244.2 +/- 42.5; p=0.006) and were more likely to be rejected (chi² = 8.67, 1 df, p<0.05). There was no significant difference between the number of errors in accepted (1.6 [1.43, 0-4]) versus rejected (2.4 [1.87, 0-7], ANOVA; p=0.217) abstracts. All late submissions (30%) were rejected. Nine abstracts (20%) contained statistical errors or omissions.

CONCLUSIONS: Succinct presentation may reflect clarity of focus or increased writing experience. Reviewers favour concise abstracts. Concise presentation and timely submission are easily achieved and increase the likelihood of research acceptance for scientific meetings.

Pierson, D. J. (2004). How to write an abstract that will be accepted for presentation at a national meeting. *Respiratory Care*, 49(10), 1206-1212. Retrieved from <https://ezp.lib.unimelb.edu.au/login?url=https://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=cin20&AN=2005037453&site=eds-live>

Preparation, submission, and presentation of an abstract are important facets of the research process, which benefit the investigator/author in several ways. Writing an abstract consists primarily of answering the questions, "Why did you start?" "What did you do?" "What did you find?" and "What does it mean?" A few practical steps in preparing to write the abstract can facilitate the process. This article discusses those steps and offers suggestions for writing each of an abstract's components (title, author list, introduction, methods, results, and conclusions); considers the advantages and disadvantages of incorporating a table or figure into the abstract; offers several general writing tips; and provides annotated examples of well-prepared abstracts: one from an original study, one from a method/device evaluation, and one from a case report.



Wood, G. J., & Morrison, R. S. (2011). Writing abstracts and developing posters for national meetings. *Journal of Palliative Medicine*, 14(3), 353-359. doi:10.1089/jpm.2010.0171

Presenting posters at national meetings can help fellows and junior faculty members develop a national reputation. They often lead to interesting and fruitful networking and collaboration opportunities. They also help with promotion in academic medicine and can reveal new job opportunities. Practically, presenting posters can help justify funding to attend a meeting. Finally, this process can be invaluable in assisting with manuscript preparation. This article provides suggestions and words of wisdom for palliative care fellows and junior faculty members wanting to present a poster at a national meeting describing a case study or original research. It outlines how to pick a topic, decide on collaborators, and choose a meeting for the submission. It also describes how to write the abstract using examples that present a general format as well as writing tips for each section. It then describes how to prepare the poster and do the presentation. Sample poster formats are provided as are talking points to help the reader productively interact with those that visit the poster. Finally, tips are given regarding what to do after the meeting. The article seeks to not only describe the basic steps of this entire process, but also to highlight the hidden curriculum behind the successful abstracts and posters. These tricks of the trade can help the submission stand out and will make sure the reader gets the most out of the hard work that goes into a poster presentation at a national meeting.