Successful Abstract Submission Guidelines

Abstract submission is structured with the following body parts:

**Purpose**
The stated purpose should be concise; usually in no more than three sentences. Avoid a long discussion regarding background. Acronyms or abbreviations must be defined.

- The first sentence provides a brief background of the area and gap in knowledge.
  - Example: “Controversy exists regarding the safety of agents that inhibit vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) in retinopathy of prematurity (ROP).”
- The second sentence gives a concise goal for the study. It can be to test a hypothesis, explore an area of inquiry, or compare observations to controls.
  - Preclinical example: We tested the hypothesis that inhibition of VEGF would slow weight gain in newborns using an experimental model of oxygen-induced retinopathy.
  - Clinical example: We performed a retrospective, observational clinical study to learn about changes in the macular structure and visual function in a long-term cohort designed to study the role of anti-oxidants supplements in age-related macular degeneration.
- The type of research study should be clearly stated, as shown in the bolded text in the above examples.
Methods
Methods should include clear, succinct descriptions of what was done or experiments performed and should include the controls for experimental conditions.

- The following information may be included but is not essential in all cases.
  - Species under study
  - Age and sex of animals/subjects
  - Number of experiments/participants
  - Statistical analysis procedures
  - Inclusion/exclusion criteria
  - Outcome measure
  - Data analysis procedures

Results
Results should be quantitative data with proper statistical information such as the standard deviation (SD), standard error of the mean (SEM), n- and p-values.

- Figures or tables can be included.
- If a hypothesis is stated in the Purpose, the Results should address the hypothesis.

Conclusions
A concise conclusion based on the evidence presented in the Results section should be provided.

- Do not overstate the results.
- The Conclusions should address the question/hypothesis stated in the Purpose section.

Samples of top-scoring abstracts