

# Successful Abstract Submission Guidelines

Abstracts are limited to 2500 characters and spaces for title, abstract body and image caption(s). Therefore, it is important to plan, review and edit your abstract submission for clarity and concision.

- The following general guidelines are intended to aid authors in developing their abstract content.
- A successful abstract should follow the scientific principles and clearly describe the scientific approach and results.
- It is important to note that variability of quality abstract content exists depending on the type of scientific study (e.g., exploratory or clinical), the scientific section and the goal of the science.
- While no abstract is likely to include all criteria for an outstanding abstract, some examples of top-scoring abstracts from different scientific sections are provided below for your reference.

**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 of 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](#)