Successful Abstract Submission Guidelines

Abstracts are limited to 2,500 characters and spaces for the title, abstract body, and image caption(s). Therefore, planning, reviewing, and editing your abstract submission is essential for clarity and concision.

- A successful abstract should follow scientific principles and clearly describe the scientific approach and results.
- It is essential to note that variability of abstract content exists depending on the type of scientific study (e.g., exploratory or clinical), the scientific section, and the goal of science.
- No abstract is likely to include all criteria for an outstanding abstract, but examples of top-scoring abstracts from different scientific sections are provided below for your reference.
- Once published in the Online Planner, abstract text cannot be hidden for press or patent reasons, so please keep this in mind when submitting your abstract.

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 lengthy discussion regarding background. Acronyms or abbreviations must be defined.

- The first sentence briefly summarizes the area and the knowledge gap.
  - *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 used 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 antioxidant supplements in age-related macular degeneration.*
- The type of research study should be clearly stated, as shown in the bold text in the above examples.

Methods

Methods should include clear, succinct descriptions of what was done, or experiments performed, and the controls for experimental conditions. Qualitative methods description should include a theoretical framework, validation methodology (e.g., triangulation or consensus process), and details of the thematic analysis (e.g., inductive or deductive) to explore predominant themes.

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 can be quantitative or qualitative data.

Quantitative data should include proper statistical information such as the standard deviation (SD), mean (SEM), standard error, and n- and p-values.

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

For qualitative data reporting, authors should be sensitive to identifying information from smaller samples. Positionality should always be considered in qualitative work. Themes should be generally limited to 3-5 with definitions.

Conclusions

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

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

Please also refer to the Abstract Submission Policies and Procedures for additional information.

View samples of top-scoring abstracts