

Submitting an Abstract for the ACPRC conference 2019



Writing an abstract is a great opportunity, as:

- it provides the first chance for you to publicise and cite the preliminary findings of your study;
- it gives you the opportunity to communicate your findings to your peers and get their feedback;
- it is the starting point of a research project, which can lead to the writing and publishing of a full paper in peer-reviewed literature.

Structure of an abstract

Title

The title should be an accurate description of the abstract's contents. It should explain as much as possible about the context and the aims of the study. In general, the title should include the scope of the investigation, the study design and the goal. It should be a description of what was investigated rather than a statement of the results or conclusions. The abstract's title should be easy for the reader to understand and should not include jargon or unfamiliar acronyms or abbreviations. ***The title should not be in capital letters.***

Authors

The list of authors should be restricted to those individuals who carried out the study, conceived it, designed it, gathered the data, analysed the numbers and wrote the abstract. **The author who will present the abstract should be listed first.** Every listed author should read and approve the abstract before it is submitted.

Main text

A good abstract should address the five following questions in the relevant sections:

1. "Why did you start?" – **Introduction or background**

You should summarise the current knowledge, in relation to the work you are presenting.

2. "What did you try to do?" – **Aims and objectives**

State the aim of your study, and ideally include a short statement of the study's hypothesis. A scientific study is not done "to prove that something is true" but rather "to find out whether it is true." The difference may seem small, but it makes a huge difference. A formal hypothesis shows that you were objective.

3. "What did you do?" – **Methods**

In an abstract, the description of the methods has to be concise, and much of the details of what was done must be omitted. However, in a few short sentences, you can give the reader a good idea of the design of the study, the context in which it was done, and the types of patients or measurements that were included.

4. "What did you find?" – **Results**

It is important to give the main results of the study, this can be descriptively as well as in the form of some real data. You will need to choose which findings to report here: it should be the most important data in your study, and the findings on which your conclusions will be based. A table or figure can be included to show your results.

5. "What does it mean?" – **Conclusions**

This is where you can present why you think your findings are important, and their potential implications to practice. Keep your conclusions reasonable and supportable by the findings of your study. Remember that if your study was restricted to certain patients, or a particular therapy, or a specific device, its results may not extend beyond these restrictions.

General advice for writing abstracts

Use simple sentences

Unless they are basic, universally accepted abbreviations, like ARDS or FEV1, acronyms and abbreviations should be spelled out the first time they are used in the abstract. Similarly, local expressions and jargon should be kept out of the abstract.

Ask your colleagues

Before the abstract is submitted, it should be double-checked for accuracy, not only of the data reported but of the description of the methods and all other details. Special attention should be paid to tables and figures. Having one or more colleagues (who were not involved in the study) read the abstract and offer constructive criticism can be extremely helpful.

Guidelines for the online submission

1. Deadline: All abstracts must be submitted by **Thursday 31st January 2019**
2. Abstracts must contain **original** data. By submitting an abstract, you confirm that the content of the abstract is free from plagiarism.
3. The maximum length of an abstract is **250 words**.
4. Abstracts will be considered for either a poster that will have an oral presentation during the main programme agenda or be on display during the conference.

Thank you for submitting to the ACPRC conference 2019

We look forward to seeing you there!