

How to Write a Successful Abstract Submission



General Guidelines

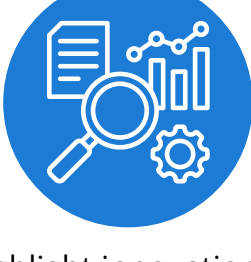
Abstract submissions should be written in the following organizational structure: Background, Methods, Results, and Conclusions.

However, case reports, as submitted in the Gross & Microscopic Symposium program, should be written in a logical order and include the following: Patient History, Biopsies, Laboratory Data, Diagnosis, and Treatment.

Recommendations for All Abstract Submissions



Emphasize the scientific relevance of your abstract



Highlight innovation in your research or findings



Outline creativity, novel concepts, and originality

View recommendations and best practices for each abstract program below:

Gross & Microscopic Symposium



Engaging Title

A clever but informative title helps catch the reviewers’ eyes. Aim for something that hints at the mystery or uniqueness of the case while being medically appropriate.

Clear and Compelling Case Selection

Choose a case that is rare, diagnostically challenging, or presents a classic condition in an atypical way.



Concise and Educational Write-Up

The abstract should clearly describe the clinical presentation, differential diagnosis, key histopathologic findings, final diagnosis, and relevant teaching pearls - all within the 250 word limit. Avoid fluff; focus on clarity and education.

Proper Terminology and Pathology Correlation

Use correct dermatologic and histopathologic terminology, and ensure the gross and microscopic findings align well. Accuracy here builds credibility.



Relevance to Clinical Practice

Emphasize why the case matters (e.g., diagnostic pitfalls, therapeutic implications, or public health relevance). Judges appreciate abstracts that offer more than just rarity.

Late-Breaking Research

Follow these tips to **NAIL IT**:



Novel

Submit work that reveals something truly new - whether it's a molecule, method, mechanism, or mindset.



Actionable

Your findings should offer immediate clinical, scientific, or technological relevance that can move the field forward.



Impactful

Think big! Can your results change how we diagnose, treat, or understand skin disease on a meaningful scale?



Late-Breaking

We want hot-off-the-press data! This is your chance to share what's fresh - data already in the public domain will not be accepted.



Innovative

Show us creative thinking...ingenious trial designs, emerging technologies, or unexpected insights that challenge the status quo.



Transformative

Your work should reshape a paradigm, not just add another brick to the wall. We're looking for game changers.

Poster Exhibit



Lead with a Clear, Focused Objective

Begin with a specific research question or hypothesis. Avoid vague goals as judges want to immediately understand what you set out to do and why it matters.



Highlight the “Why” Early

Make the clinical or scientific relevance of your work obvious in the first few lines. Frame the problem within a larger context, whether it's addressing a clinical gap, exploring a novel mechanism, or improving patient outcomes.



Keep It Data Driven and Results Oriented

Abstracts that state “results pending” or propose a study rarely advance. Even if your study is early-stage, present interim findings with clarity and confidence. Judges want substance, not speculation.



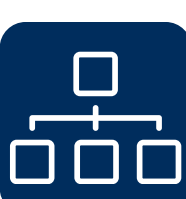
Emphasize Innovation

Whether it's a new methodology, application of an existing technology, or a unique clinical insight, be explicit about what's new or different. Originality is a major factor in scoring.



Use Precise, Accessible Language

Avoid jargon and convoluted phrasing. An abstract should be digestible on the first read by a broad audience, even if the topic is highly technical.



Structure Is Everything

While not mandatory, organizing the abstract with clearly defined sections, Background, Objective, Methods, Results, and Conclusion, can make an impact. This makes it easier for reviewers to evaluate the content efficiently.



End with a Strong, Impactful Conclusion

If the judge has to quote Austin Powers after reading your abstract (“What does it all mean Basil?”), it's not a good sign. What do your findings mean for clinical practice, future research, or patient care? Make the “so what” clear.

Residents & Fellows Symposium

Residents & Fellows Symposium abstracts should summarize quality research in **250 words or fewer**.



The abstract should start with an **introduction to the topic** explaining why the subject is important and how the research will add information to the field of study.



Next, include a **brief description of the methods**. Original research, strong study design and larger sample sizes will receive higher marks than literature reviews and case reports will not be selected to present.



Include a **brief summary of results** and describe how these results are meaningful. Novel concepts, high impact findings and clinically relevant studies conducted with scientific rigor will be favorably considered.

Remember to organize your abstract in the following structure:

- 1 Background:** Background or Statement of Purpose
- 2 Methods:** Methods, materials and analytical procedure used
- 3 Results:** Summary of the results in sufficient detail to support conclusion
- 4 Conclusion:** Conclusions reached (do not state “results will be discussed”)
- 5 Contribution:** Describe resident/fellow contribution to the research project