Writing A Winning Abstract

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Disclosures

• None to declare
Objectives

After presentation, participants will be able to

• Distinguish elements for research presentation from those for clinical presentation

• Follow directions for abstract development and submission

• Identify need to match conference objectives
Write a Winning Abstract

• Directions
• Elements
• Focus
• Organize
• Target the conference objectives

Alexandrov & Hennerici, 2007
Papanas et al., 2012
Directions

• Read the directions
• Believe the directions
• Follow the directions

Quote: Martha J. Lentz, PhD, RN
Center for Women’s Health Research
School of Nursing
University of Washington
Title is Important

• 10-15 words maximum
• Specific Research Design
• Population of interest
• What was accomplished

Examples:
• Comparative Effectiveness of Positioning...or Comparative Effectiveness Study of Positioning in Dialysis-related Hypotension in Veteran Population
• Herpes in Women....or Retrospective Chart Review of Treatment Outcomes in Adult Women with Herpes
• Usability of Self-Report Questionnaire...or Usability Study of a Computerized Physical Activity Self-report Questionnaire in Middle School Adolescents
  • Mahboobi et al., 2012
Abstract Elements: Research Presentation

• **Background:** One-two sentences only
• **Purpose:** One sentence. Be clear
• **Sample:** Who, from where, how many, demographics
• **Methods:** Be specific
• **Results:** Give real data
• **Conclusions:** Identify what you found
• **Implications/Significance:** Be realistic, be specific, more research needed

Alexandrov & Hennerici, 2007
O’Keefe-McCarthy & Parry, 2013
Abstract Elements:

*Clinical or Theoretical Presentation*

- **Background:** One-two sentences
- **Purpose:** Be specific, in one sentence
- **Elements of presentation:** Be brief and specific of what you’re presenting; procedures
- **Outcomes or conclusions:** What is your point
- **Significance:** Be realistic, be specific, what’s the next step

Alexandrov & Hennerici, 2007
O’Keefe-McCarthy & Parry, 2013
References

• References typically NOT included in abstract for Presentation or for Manuscript Publication

• References are ALWAYS useful in slide presentation or handout as seen in this presentation
Focus Abstract

- Be brief, but thorough
- If headings are suggested, USE them exclusively
- Heed space limitations
- Check for cohesion
- Highlight significance and/or conclusions

Alexandrov & Hennerici, 2007
O’Keefe-McCarthy & Perry, 2013
Papanas, et al., 2012
Organize

• Present in logical order
• Follow guidelines as published by call for abstracts—make it easy for reviewer
• Cut extraneous material
• If only completed research is requested, be sure your abstract is so presented
• Be succinct & specific
Target Conference Objectives

• Ensure fit to conference objectives
  – If objective is rural health, pitch your abstract to rural health audience
  – Follow directions
  – Follow directions
  – Follow directions

Alexandrov, et al., 2007
Russell & Ponferrada, 2012
Highlight Significance

• To target audience
• If conference attended by health care providers, underscore significance to their practice
• If conference attended by multidisciplinary audience, highlight importance to major groups
References