Writing Scientific Abstracts

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SUBMISSION PROCEDURES

• Read the call for abstracts
  • This presentation available on AAO website
  • Evaluation criteria
  • Overview of submission Instructions
SUBMISSION PROCEDURES

- Follow the submission instructions
  - Select type correctly
    - Clinical and Scientific Research
    - Case report / Case Series
    - Educational Research
    - Academy Information
SUBMISSION PROCEDURES

- Use comments to reviewer as needed
  - Images available
  - Funded research
  - Previous presentation
  - Candidate for fellowship
- Carefully select
  - Primary topic
  - Requested format
  - Keywords
SUBMISSION PROCEDURES

- Consider Carefully / disclose fully
  - Financial support
  - Conflicts of interest
WHAT IS SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH?

• Novelty
  • New information
  • Unique problem
  • Fresh perspective
  • Novel and useful information
  • Innovative methods

• Systematic evaluation
  • Study design addresses proposed question
  • Methods are sound
    • Subject selection
    • Controls
    • Analysis is appropriate
  • Interpretation of Results
    • Findings and Conclusions
WHAT TO IMPROVE WHEN WRITING SCIENTIFIC ABSTRACT

- Title should describe study without bias
- Purpose should state the research question and possibly why it is important
- Methods should briefly describe in detail everything conducted to obtain results
- Results should show data, not just p-values
- Conclusions must be completely substantiated by data presented
- Mention funding source
- Check for grammatical, typographical errors
WHAT DOES THIS HAVE TO DO WITH HAIKU?

Within plum orchard,
Sturdy oak takes no notice
Of flowering blooms.
—Basho

- Scientific Abstracts are a similarly Restrictive format
- Requires concise and structured writing

Communicating
Striving for understanding
Few will ever know
What Makes A Great Case Report?

Seek out the unique
Thoroughly research, review
Write concise & clear
Writing a Case Report is a Process:
It involves much more than just seeing a case!

- **Interesting / Unique Clinical Case**
  - Diagnosis is not in question
  - Follow-up is sufficient to support conclusions
  - Role in management is appropriate for authorship
  - Relevant imaging, photography, test results available

- **Thorough Literature Review**
  - Reassuring the diagnosis is correct
  - Assessing extent of previous reporting
  - Identification of previously unknown aspects

- **Greater likelihood of acceptance**

- **Read submission requirements**
  - Clearly write the abstract emphasizing novelty
  - Include all details reviewers will need for decision
  - Check spelling / grammar
TOP 5 REASONS FOR REJECTION (2011)

- Novelty / Significance (71)
- Methods not appropriate (18)
- Results not stated or incomplete (24)
- Conclusions unsupported (4)
- Administrative concerns (ethics, disclosures, etc.) (4)
How do I know that my case is novel enough?

The concept of a “Gap Statement”

Does your case bridge a “gap” in our understanding of the anatomy, pathophysiology, epidemiology or natural history of a disease?

Does your case bridge a “gap” in the current treatment options for a particular disease or use of a particular medications?

Does your case fill a “gap” in the knowledgebase of the community?

Make sure your abstract clearly delineates your “Gap Statement!”

** On-line form has a place for authors to directly inform reviewers of desirable attributes of the case
The Scientific Programs Committee wants you to showcase your work
Remember that published abstracts are a direct reflection of the academy
You will go a long way toward acceptance if:
- Pick a case that you managed with sufficient work-up and follow-up
- Go to the literature and thoroughly review topic. Think “Gap Statement”
- Read directions on academy website before writing
- Make sure you write clearly and convey the novelty in your writing
- Check for grammatical and spelling errors
We look forward to reading your submissions next year!