

# WORKSHOP

## Hoe schrijf ik een abstract?

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Content of this workshop provided by J.W.F. van Mill, ESCP Communication Committee

# Content of workshop

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- ▶ Aims of writing a scientific abstract
- ▶ Structure of an abstract
- ▶ How does a reviewer look at your work?
- ▶ Exercises
- ▶ Take home message



# What is an abstract ?

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## An abstract is

- ▶ a structured condensed version of a information on a (research) project which
    - ▶ highlights the major points
    - ▶ gives result in condensed format
    - ▶ leads to a conclusion (just like a paper)
    - ▶ should make reviewers curious about your project
  
  - ▶ A request to present a poster or short oral presentation
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## First to know

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Every scientific organisation that organises a conference, will have guidelines for the submission of conference abstracts. These abstract formats are different for different organisations!

- ▶ This workshop is based on the **ESCP guidelines** (<http://www.escpweb.org/cms/Guidelines>) , but you will also learn about scientific conference abstracts in general.
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# Questions before writing a conference abstract

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- ▶ Will you be in a position to go to the conference/ symposium/ workshop?
  - ▶ Is it worth to present this study?
    - ▶ Is the message new?
    - ▶ Expand or confirm existing knowledge?
    - ▶ Negative results worth publishing!
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# First steps

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- ▶ Sit back and think: why did you do the described study, and what was it that you exactly tried to find out.
  - ▶ Who is your audience?
  - ▶ What is the most interesting about your work?
  - ▶ What is your message in simple words? Limit the information that you have to a 'chunk' that you eventually could publish on a poster.
  - ▶ Decide who your co-authors will be, and invite them (always mention your supervisor)
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## And then

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- ▶ Put the required headers in a document, and start writing. Try to separate relevant from irrelevant information
  - ▶ Condense the text to maximal the number of words allowed.
  - ▶ Let someone else (preferably a native English speaker) read your draft and comment.
  - ▶ Prepare the final version for submission.
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# Research abstract vs. Descriptive abstract

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Research abstract	Descriptive abstract
Describes a study	Describes an implementation project of development of a concept
Must have (some) of the results	May have results but not necessary
Conclusion must answer the research question (to a certain extend)	Conclusion can describe issues around feasibility
Linked to research	Linked to clinical pharmacy practice

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# Structure of an ESCP abstract

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- ▶ **Title:** Specific, informative and brief.
  - ▶ **Authors & establishment:** The surname together with initials of forenames of all those *who have made a significant contribution* to the work must be included, plus the details of the institution for the main (=first) author
  - ▶ **Background and Objective** (= Introduction): The question or problem addressed by the study and why the study is carried out
  - ▶ **Design** (=Method): The basic design of the study and statistical methods used
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# Structure of an ESCP abstract

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- ▶ **Setting:** The location/place where the study has been carried out.
  - ▶ **Main outcome measures:** The main parameters/sort of data in which you present the principal results
  - ▶ **Results:** The description of the results, brief and precise. 'Results will be shown' is unacceptable.
  - ▶ **Conclusions:** The conclusion(s) should follow logically from the objective and results of the study
  - ▶ **References:** Maximum of four references should be listed in Vancouver style (do not use if not absolutely necessary!)
  - ▶ **And all in maximum of 350 words!**
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# Keep in mind !

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- An abstract should
  - Be clear and concise
  - Not exceed the words limit (350 words)
  - Be proper and understandable English
  - Contain no abbreviations and jargon
  - Contain no figures or tables
- Possible conflicts of interest
- Presented or published elsewhere?



# Abstract scoring for ESCP I

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## Part 1

- ▶ Is the abstract within the scope of clinical pharmacy?
- ▶ Is the abstract understandable
- ▶ Is there a clear aim in the abstract?
- ▶ Are the results clearly described
- ▶ Are all fields for the required headers filled and properly completed

**If 5 times Yes, then the abstract is accepted and scored for quality and presentation format**

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# Abstract scoring for ESCP II

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## Part 2

- ▶ The described project/study is original
- ▶ The described project/study is relevant for an international audience
- ▶ The described project/study is likely to improve patient care, directly or indirectly
- ▶ The described project/study is likely to generate debate or further study

Scoring range: 1-5 (strongly disagree – strongly agree)

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# Exercise 1

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- ▶ What is the message of this study for:
  - ▶ The Public
  - ▶ Medical doctors
  - ▶ ESCP conference visitors



## Exercise 2

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- ▶ Indicate where the different sentences belong:
    - ▶ B= Background & objective
    - ▶ D= Design (Method)
    - ▶ S= Setting
    - ▶ M= Main outcome measure
    - ▶ R= Result
    - ▶ C= Conclusion
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## Exercise 3

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- ▶ Analyse the abstract and list the reasons why this abstract in its current format would probably not be accepted for presentation as a poster during an ESCP symposium (and probably also not somewhere else).
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## Exercise 3 (2)

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### **Apoptosis of Hepatocarcinoma Cells Induced by Oil of Artemisia Annul L.**

Wan Tjau Li, Han Song, University of Ping Ha, Thiana.

**Background and Objective:** Oil of Artemisia Annul L. (OAAL) was a kind of new volatilization oil which was distilled from the traditional Chinese herb Artemisia Annul L.. We would investigate whether it could induce apoptosis on cultured hepatocarcinoma cells SMMC-7721.

**Methods:** Hepatocarcinoma cells were treated by OAAL with different dosage and time, while normal liver cells HL-7702 were treated by the same way as normal cell control. Then, cell proliferation was measured with cell viability analyzer. Apoptosis was investigated by means of flow cytometry, electronic microscope and DNA agarose gel electrophoresis.

**Results:** Induction SMMC-7721 with 100 $\mu$ g/ml OAAL for 24h, apoptosis rate was 12.1% and apoptosis could be characterised by a series of typical morphological and biochemical features, such as condensation of cytoplasm, fragmentation of the nuclear chromatin, sub-G1 peak and DNA ladder pattern. The observations also indicated that OAAL induced apoptosis of hepatocarcinoma cells in a time-dependent but not concentration-dependent manner.

**Conclusion:** OAAL could induce apoptosis on cultured hepatocarcinoma cells.

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# Troubleshooting

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- ▶ drugs should be referred to by their approved INN (not proprietary/brand) name;
  - ▶ undefined abbreviations should not be used;
  - ▶ scientific measurements should be in SI units (except blood pressure in mm Hg);
  - ▶ statistical methods should be defined, and referenced if not in common use;
  - ▶ the number of patients or subjects studied should be clearly stated.
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# Common reasons for rejection (1)

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- ▶ inappropriate title;
- ▶ lacking in rigorous study design and/or methodology (research abstract);
- ▶ the objectives and conclusions are not clear;
- ▶ conclusions do not follow from the objectives and results;
- ▶ questionable statistical analysis;
- ▶ inadequate information which does not permit the abstract to be understood;
- ▶ describing a study without results (unless development of a novel type of design).



## Common reasons for rejection (2)

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- ▶ inadequate data which does not permit the abstract to be evaluated;
- ▶ lacking in novelty and originality or having predictable results;
- ▶ the submission does not conform to requirements for the layout and presentation of abstracts;
- ▶ bad use of the English language, leading to misunderstandings;
- ▶ **ESCP**: not relevant to clinical pharmacy or direct patient care;
- ▶ **ESCP**: describing hospital pharmacy practice without a clinical element.



# Take home

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- ▶ The abstract must convey the important information, which will eventually be contained in the full poster or short presentation.
  - ▶ A possible conflict of interest (e.g. through involvement with a pharmaceutical company) should be clearly stated in the abstract and the poster or presentation.
  - ▶ The abstract must be legible, intelligible and understandable when read (i.e. precision, clarity and rigour).
  - ▶ The abstract must be written in proper and understandable English, and formatted with the headers according to the guidelines
  - ▶ A structured abstract should never include figures or tables.
  - ▶ Some organisations allow references in a conference abstract, others don't. Check this!
  - ▶ Before printing or typing the abstract make sure that you do not exceed the number of words permitted. See the guidelines
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# Summary

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- ▶ Before writing:
    - ▶ Sit back and think of your principal message(s) for this audience!
  - ▶ When writing:
    - ▶ Stick to the instructions and format
  - ▶ After acceptance:
    - ▶ Stick to your message!
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