Society for Academic Emergency Medicine

Tips for High Impact SAEM Abstract Submissions

- Review in detail the SAEM Scientific Submission Scoring Rubric at the time your study is *designed*. Review these guidelines again prior to submission. Please make sure to include enough detail related to each of the components of the rubric to ensure you receive credit for all of the strong elements of your study.
- Strong abstracts report the results of strong studies, and a weak or flawed study cannot be rectified at the time of reporting. If you are new to research, working with a strong mentor at the beginning of a study can help facilitate a strong study design and impactful scientific investigation.
- Prior to drafting your abstract, please review examples of strong previously accepted abstracts. If you are new to scientific meeting submissions, it would be advantageous to work closely with an experienced scientific mentor to help focus and improve the quality of the abstract.
- Drafting an abstract is like telling a story, and strong abstracts have a simple, high-impact, clinically relevant, and cohesive story to tell. A cohesive story starts with a clear explicitly stated hypothesis-based objective. That objective naturally leads into the methods in a logical flow of why you chose to conduct your study as you did. Results should include all the findings that (1) build to your conclusion and (2) are structured in the order of the methods discussed. The conclusion will *directly* respond to the objective/hypothesis/purpose identified in the beginning of your abstract. Common pitfalls are (1) listing a conclusion unrelated to your objective; (2) listing methods without corresponding results; or (3) failing to clearly tie methods or results to your explicit purpose.
- Remember that most studies are more complex than a single abstract, but authors are strongly discouraged from dividing a single study into multiple abstracts. The main purpose of conducting the study should be clear. There may be an opportunity to present additional data/analyses as part of your presentation, but aiming for a linear, succinct, and clear abstract that conveys the main message clearly is preferred.
- Every scientific abstract should be interesting and relevant. After drafting your abstract, re-read it, thinking about your audience. Is your primary audience other researchers, clinicians, policy-makers, or the general public? Answering the question "why should my audience care?" is just as important as meeting your objective. Use your abstract to convince your audience that your message is relevant to them, significant to science and to medicine, and impactful on the practice of emergency care.

- A strong abstract will go through multiple rounds of revision. At each revision, the authors will (1) remove extra words; (2) improve the use of active voice; (3) refine and clarify the message; (4) identify gaps in the argument (and perhaps supplement with additional analysis); (5) refine the abstract to remove portions unrelated to the purpose of the study; and (6) strengthen support for the conclusions. In order to refine the abstract, all authors will need time to review and revise the draft abstract. To successfully submit a strong abstract, it is recommended to complete the initial draft two to three weeks before the submission deadline to allow appropriate time for co-author review and revision. Moreover, the study timeline should be constructed to allow sufficient time for strengthening scientific reporting.
- The presentation of scientific data serves multiple purposes, but the most important reason to present your work at SAEM is to get the feedback of a remarkable community of research peers in emergency medicine. SAEM benefits from the strength of our community, and we appreciate your work in bringing the best science in emergency medicine to the Annual Meeting.