

The Art of Writing an Abstract!

Workshop 4

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Conflict of interest:
nothing to disclose

A quick poll:
Vote by raising your hands!



- Have you ever written and submitted an abstract for poster presentation at a conference?

- YES
- NO



- Did you ever submit an abstract for presentation at the EAHP congress? Was it accepted?

- YES
- NO

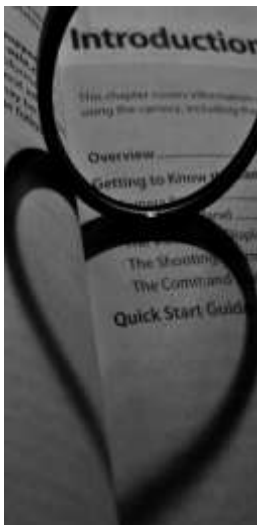


- Do you want to leave the room straight away?

- YES
- NO



- **Introduction** and general principles
- Let's go to **work!** It's your turn!
- The example of **anti-infective drugs**



Recipe of **good study**

- Clear study question
 - Aims and objectives
 - „Small is beautiful“
- Protocol
- New **message!**
 - You should know the literature.
- Clear and valid **methods**

Methodology

About the choice of particular methods to answer a research question

Methods

Description what was actually done

Smith FJ. Conducting your pharmacy practice research Project, PP Press 2010, 2nd ed

Quantitative Studies

Goal: Quantification of phenomena

- Descriptive OR experimental

Examples

- Frequency of events
- Proportions, associations
- MUE
- RCT
- Before/after studies
- ...

Qualitative Studies

Goal: Explore how? Why?

- Descriptive/exploratory/hypothesis generating
- Exploration of processes, patterns of people's thoughts, behaviour,...
- Explanation of priorities, concerns, meanings,...

Examples of techniques

- Focus group
- Survey (+/-)

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The abstract:

A **summary of points** (as of a writing) usually presented in **skeletal form**; *also*: something that summarizes or concentrates the **essentials** of a larger thing or several things

Merriam Webster Online Dictionary



- **Concise** piece of **text**
- Easy-to-read
- Requested **structure**
- **Only major issues**
- Target **audience**
- Target **language**

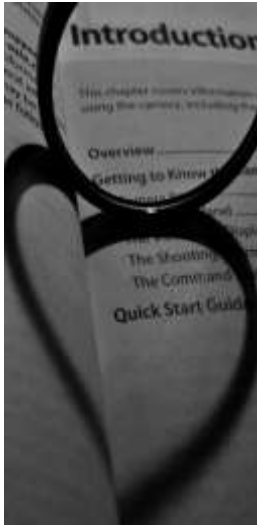
Your abstract = **your signature**

Category	Examples of topics
Clinical pharmacy	service evaluation, service implementation, outcome evaluation, pharmacoeconomics, drug efficacy evaluations, D&T committees,
Drug distribution	Logistics, storage conditions, ordering systems, drug distribution technology (e.g., bar code scanning, electronic cabinets, dose dispensing), home delivery, supply chain management
Drug information and pharmacotherapy	Patient education, patient knowledge, telepharmacy, drug use evaluations, adverse drug events
Production and preparation	Technology, formulation, quality control
General Management	Education, staffing, organisation, financing, services/tasks, working environment, occupational health, management theories
Pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics	Therapeutic drug monitoring, metabolism, interactions, genetic polymorphisms
Patient safety and risk management	Medicines reconciliation, medication history, medication review, drug-related problems, root cause analysis
Other hospital pharmacy topics	Medical devices

Table 1: Categories for abstract submission with examples

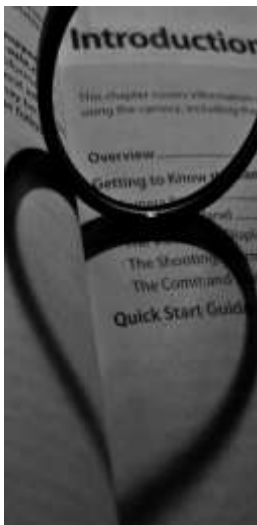
The **storyline** of an abstract

- Once upon a time researchers believe **Background**
- But then I thought that maybe ... **Objectives**
- So what I did was... **Methods**
- And I've discovered that ... **Results**
- Which changed the way that we ... **Conclusion**



Basic **structure** and terminology

- **Title:** accurate, clear, concise, including as much about the context and the study aims as possible
 - no abbreviations, unfamiliar acronyms
- **Authors:** only those who significantly contributed (e.g., design, practical work, data gathering, analysis, writing)



Background:

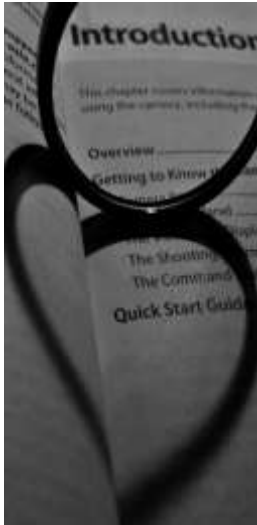
- Why did you start?
- Current knowledge, state-of-the-art, described concisely

Purpose:

- Study aim – What did you investigate?

Materials and methods:

- Concise description of the design and the context/setting of the study, types of patients, description of the intervention(s)
- Not too much, not too little information



Results:

- What did you find?
- Main results, not just in subjective terms, but also underpinned with real data
- Most important data, findings on which the conclusion is based (!!)
- Avoid tables and figures

Conclusions:

- What does it mean? Why do you think your findings are important
- Reasonable and supportive (by findings) conclusions only
- Avoid generalisations

Checklist prior to submission

- Abstract adheres to EAHP guidelines
- ,My results are in line with study objectives'
- ,My conclusions are supported by data presented in the abstract'
- Word count: 300 max.
- Language, grammar and spelling checked by peers



- Let's go to **work**! It's your turn!