

## Writing your abstract

### Top tips for the Cancer Outcomes Conference 2013

The National Cancer Intelligence Network has put together this brief guide about how to write an abstract for the Cancer Outcomes Conference 2013.

#### What is an abstract?

An abstract is a concise summary of your research, clinical audit, analytical technique or service evaluation. It identifies the methodology used, the findings, conclusions, or intended results, and highlights the major points covered.

#### What should I include in my abstract submission to the Cancer Outcomes Conference 2013?

Your abstract submission will need to follow the following format:

- Title
- Background
- Method
- Results
- Conclusions

You may also want to include acknowledgements and references; these are optional fields outside the 300 word limit.

**Title:** The title should succinctly ***describe the contents of your abstract and should use words that are strongly associated with I, i.e.*** the cancer site, the type of methodology applied, the hypothesis raised. The title should be short and unambiguous.

#### Section 1 (Background): What the problem is and why people should care

Introduce the **context** of your research, clinical audit, analytical technique or service evaluation and if appropriate, you should demonstrate an understanding of current literature.

#### Section 2 (Method)

**Outline your project, the theoretical or practical techniques** you used, the **experiment or source** material, and **how you answered the question** you outlined in your background section.

#### Section 3 (Results)

Outline what you learnt, created, or invented. Remember to **explain your evidence** and where it comes from, not just what it is you're arguing. If your paper is an argument, remember to establish the steps you go through to get to the final point.

#### Section 4 (Conclusions, and why people should listen to you)

You now need to return to the big picture: How do these findings address the issue raised in Section 1 (background)? What do your results imply for the field? We are especially interested in how your work affects the **wider context of cancer** outcomes, and **why it is relevant and exciting**. Is it going to change the world, be a significant "win" or serve as a road sign to further research? This is your

opportunity to convince the abstract review panel that your work is significant and that you deserve the time to present it.

***Top tips:***

- It takes lots of revision to write a good abstract! Expect to spend some time preparing your abstract before submitting it.
- Find the main point of your paper or research and phrase it in a way that can be understood by an educated non-expert.
- Don't go over the word limit (300 words). Your work will be dismissed out of hand.
- We want to know why your work is important to the field of cancer intelligence, not simply that more research is required.

### Scoring system

The review panel scores each abstract submitted based on the following criteria:

**A. Clarity of purpose and objectives of the study**

- Are the objectives clear and well presented?

**B. Appropriateness of the methodology and study design**

- Is the methodology used appropriate for the study?
- Is the data analysis and interpretation appropriate?

**C. Significance of the contribution to cancer outcomes**

- Are the conclusions clear and appropriate to the study?
- Is it innovative? Does it provide new insights?