ASCP 2017 Annual Meeting

Abstract Submission Guidelines

Submission Deadline: 11:59pm CST Monday, March 20, 2017
Author Notification of Acceptance or Rejection: End of May, 2017

General Guidelines

- Submissions cannot have been presented, published, or submitted for presentation or publication elsewhere.
- All abstracts must be submitted electronically. Late abstracts, or those received by any means other than the ASCP abstract submission website will not be reviewed by ASCP.
- Abstracts must be submitted in English. Submitting an abstract does NOT guarantee its acceptance at the ASCP 2017 Annual Meeting. ASCP will provide notification of final status to all abstract submissions, but will not identify the individual abstract reviewers.
- Particular attention should be given to products or equipment that bear registered trade names. Provide the company name and its city and state address parenthetically following the first mention of the product.
- References should not be used.

Preparation Guidelines

Case studies
If you are submitting a case study or report, make sure to indicate that in the question after the Abstract Body. You may also remove the headers in the Abstract Body if needed. Case Studies are not eligible for the Award Competition.

Abstracts may be submitted in any ONE of three presentation formats:

Scientific Abstract
A synopsis of a formal experiment following standard scientific method that includes conveying the objectives of the experiment as well as the hypothesis, methods, results and conclusions related to the study. Scientific abstracts should include these components: Title, Introduction, Methods, Results, and Conclusions.

Lab Practice Abstract
A summary presentation or case study describing a problem and the means used to resolve that problem for enhancing data quality, lab process or efficiency, improving planning or practice management, incorporating new techniques and technologies, globalizing healthcare, enhancing professional development and/or certification support, improving patient care, improving care team integration, and so on. Lab Practice abstracts should include these components: Title, Introduction, Methods, and Conclusions (which may also include results.)

Educational Practice Abstract
A summary presentation or case study describing a strategy, technique, or novel format for producing, presenting, or disseminating education for pathology or laboratory medicine in a conference, medical school, undergraduate or post-graduate clinical training setting. Educational Practice abstracts should
include these components: Title, Introduction, Methods, and Conclusions (which may also include results.)

**NOTE:** All abstracts accepted for presentation at ASCP 2017 Annual Meeting must be presented in TWO formats:
- Traditional paper poster displayed on a 4’ x 6’ board at the Annual Meeting in Chicago **AND**
- ePoster (Electronic Poster) displayed online via the ASCP 2017 Annual Meeting website

A select group of posters will also be nominated by the Abstract Review Group for oral presentation via a special oral platform session.

**Structure**
These guidelines apply to all abstract formats (scientific, lab practice, educational practice.) Abstracts that do not conform to all stated specifications will be disqualified.

The **abstract** should be a single paragraph of text no more than 300 words. This count does not include title and author identification information. **Charts, figures, or tables should not be used in the abstract text. These items are allowable in the board poster and ePoster presentation of the abstract.**

The **Title** should accurately describe the questions answered or problem to be addressed by the study. Vague, general titles should be avoided. Do not use abbreviations in the title.

The **Introduction** should clearly characterize the scientific question investigated or, in the case of lab practice or educational practice abstracts, the problem, dilemma or case to be addressed. Background information should be provided to the extent that it introduces the current study and documents its importance to the literature.

**Methods** used in the study should be briefly explained in this section. For example, with scientific abstracts, what essential reagents were used, what patients or tissue samples were studied, what special techniques were applied and how, and what type of study was performed (e.g., prospective, retrospective, case-control.) General reagents (e.g., buffers, deionized water) need not be included if they are not unique to the work.

With lab practice or educational practice abstracts, the methods should explain the strategy or resolution employed to resolve the issue.

For all abstract presentation formats, demonstrate how the methods presented will address the questions in the introduction section. The number of patients, cases, or samples studied should be included in this section. Identify the control group selected and those conditions that would exclude cases from the study. All data must be presented in text format. No charts, figures, or tables should be used.

**Results** are required for scientific abstracts, but may also be included as part of the Conclusions section in Lab Practice or Educational Practice abstracts. Results of significant positive and negative findings should be presented as concisely as possible. Most abstracts are rejected because of inadequate data. To state "results will be presented" is uninformative and of little value. Make sure any conclusions you reach are supported by the data presented. When expressing laboratory values, use conventional units
followed by SI units in parentheses. All data must be presented in a text format. No charts, figures, or tables will be accepted.

**Conclusions** should be stated concisely and include any recommendations for future study as well as the implications and significance of the data or study presented. Do not introduce concepts not considered in the body of the abstract.

**Topic Categories**
Abstracts must be submitted under only ONE of the following categories. All categories are available to submitters of scientific, lab practice or educational practice abstracts.

**Anatomic Pathology**
- Cytopathology
- Surgical Pathology
- Autopsy, Forensic, Grossing
- Molecular Pathology (techniques, testing, including cytogenetics)
- Hematopathology
- Blood Banking, Transfusion Medicine, Coagulation
- Chemistry
- Medical Microbiology & Infectious Diseases
- Certification Support (fundamental knowledge; American Board of Pathology Maintenance of Certification/ASCP Certification Maintenance Program)

**Educational Practice Abstracts**
- Education Best Practices for Pathologists and Laboratory Professionals
- Laboratory/Business Management
- Informatics/Digital Pathology
- Laboratory Practice, Quality Management & Quality Control
- Professional Development, Leadership, Career Management
- Public Health Policy, Health Care Reform & Global Pathology
- Clinical Team (pathologists’ role working with clinical team to treat patients/guide care; system based practice)
- Clinical Pathology

**Awards Competitions**
ASCP sponsors several best poster awards competitions open to accepted abstracts. This year’s poster competitions feature:

- “Best Poster by a Resident” — open to all accepted abstracts submitted by a primary author who is a resident (or who was in a training program at the time the research or study was performed)
- “Best Poster Submitted from Outside the United States” — open to all accepted abstracts submitted by a primary author whose scientific research or lab practice study for the abstract was completed outside the United States
- “Best Lab Practice Poster” — open to all accepted abstracts submitted in the Lab Practice Abstract category
- “Best Educational Practice Poster” — open to all accepted abstracts submitted in the Educational Practice Abstract category
- “Best Scientific Poster” — open to all accepted abstracts submitted in the Scientific Abstract category
- “Best Oral Poster” — open to all finalists selected for the oral platform session
The program committee will select a group of finalists from all abstract submissions eligible for each competition. Finalists in all competitions will be judged by appointed experts who will visit the poster presenter during his/her assigned poster session. Winners of all best poster competitions will be announced near the end of the Annual Meeting.

Selection Criteria
All submitted abstracts will be peer reviewed. The Abstract Review Group uses these criteria for grading all abstracts regardless of the presentation format in which they are submitted (i.e., either scientific, lab practice, or educational practice):

- **Originality:** Uniqueness or creativity of the concept presented
- **Potential Importance:** Relevance to the field (either currently or potential future relevance), potential usefulness to the practitioner, lab professional, or learner
- **Research Design or Implementation:** For scientific abstracts, appropriate study numbers and/or subjects, appropriate control population, appropriate use of statistics, etc; for lab practice or educational practice abstracts, clarity in presenting the material, historical relevance, quality of case management and follow up, etc.
- **Interpretations and/or Conclusions:** Interpretation of present or past findings, concise and clear summary of key points, connection between the conclusion and the hypothesis, etc.

The number of abstracts to be accepted is not predetermined before the reviewers have made their recommendations. Theoretically, all abstracts submitted could be accepted for presentation.

Acceptance
Abstracts that are of general interest to the ASCP membership are accepted on the basis of quality, as determined by the Abstract Review Group with expertise in the area in which an abstract is submitted. **Onsite at the Annual Meeting, a presenting author must be present at his/her board poster for the entire time block of the assigned poster session. Some posters will also be selected for oral presentation via a special platform poster session. Failure to be present or display an accepted poster at the assigned poster session may forfeit the rights of the primary presenter to participate in ASCP poster sessions at future annual meetings.**

Submission of an abstract for consideration constitutes the granting of permission to the American Society for Clinical Pathology to post the abstract in electronic format on the Society's Website and/or any of its subsidiary websites for purposes of previewing the abstracts accepted for meeting presentation. **All accepted abstracts will be published in citable form.**

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Copyright assignment forms will be forwarded with all notices of acceptance for publication by ASCP. Only those abstracts with complete copyright assignment statements of all authors will be published.