HOW TO WRITE A QUALITY ABSTRACT

The key goal of an abstract is to clearly and succinctly describe the relevance, details, and excitement of your research project. The abstract should be interesting and informative and should also be easily understood by scientists who are not familiar with your specific area of study. We recommend simple declarative sentences for narrative sections, and the use of passive voice for methodological sections. Where abbreviations and acronyms are essential, they should be defined on the first instance. Plan on your abstract being **no more** than 1000 words total. This word limit **includes** the authors, institutional affiliations, abstract body, and any references.

Abstracts should include a title, hypothesis, methods, results, and conclusions. The title should be brief but clearly convey the central message of the study. The hypothesis, or central aim of the study, should be stated in the first few sentences of the abstract and be presented in the context of critical background information (i.e., studies or data that inspired the current hypothesis). This should be followed by brief information on the experimental approach. In the case of clinical studies, provide clarity on whether the study was retrospective or prospective, and the state of randomization. The results (they can be preliminary) should be summarized clearly and be presented to make it easy for the reader to understand how the data informs the hypothesis. Finally, the results should be interpreted in the context of research in the field, highlighting the significance of the scientific advancements. A statement on possible future directions can also be included, if appropriate.

We recommend having a colleague review your work prior to submission to optimize clarity and conciseness for scientists in your field and beyond.