

BJA Research Forum abstract submission and presentation guidelines

The Anaesthetic Research Society invites abstract submissions for the British Journal of Anaesthesia Research Forum. Most meetings will have a themed call, but abstracts are invited for all meetings that cover the following topics:

- Anaesthesia and its related disciplines (namely critical care, peri-operative medicine & pain medicine) and its subspecialties
- Clinical and laboratory research
- Robust Quality Improvement projects

Submissions are welcome from clinicians and academics, and from consultants, trainees and medical students. Submissions from trainee networks are welcomed and encouraged. Clinical Scientists and Allied Healthcare Professionals are also welcome to submit abstracts. You do not need to be a member of the ARS to submit an abstract, but you are welcome to join and meeting fees have a members' discount. By submitting an abstract, at least one of the authors is agreeing to register and to attend the meeting in order to present the abstract, if selected.

Abstracts are screened against the following criteria:

- Meets the submission guidelines (see below)
- High quality scientific work
- Clinical relevance of the work
- Appropriate methodology and use of statistics where appropriate
- Appropriate and justified conclusions
- Overall quality of written submission (clear and succinct language, appropriate use of figures and tables and appropriate limited references)
- Priority may be given to abstracts that are aligned to advertised meeting themes

The authors of selected abstracts are invited to attend the meeting (for which you will need to register) and present orally. Guidelines for the presentation are detailed below.

Publication

Successfully presented abstracts are eligible for publication in the British Journal of Anaesthesia. Abstract publication does not prejudice subsequent publication of a complete manuscript in a scientific journal, but the authors have a responsibility to notify the target journal of the abstract presentation and publication.

The Society does not usually accept presentations of work that has previously been published or presented nationally, except for consideration for the President's Award for Undergraduate Research which will not be published.

On no account will previously presented or published work be published in the British Journal of Anaesthesia. You may elect to present your work but not publish the abstract.

Submission of audits, research protocols and research in progress for presentation are very welcome but these may not be published. Submitters will be informed if their work is accepted for presentation but does not meet the criteria for publication.

The audience of the BJA Research Forum meetings typically comprises researchers and academics, clinical academics, clinicians and frontline healthcare staff from across the field of anaesthesia with significant research interests. The forum provides both formal and informal opportunities for discussion, advice, feedback and guidance from a relevant academic audience.

Successful abstracts will typically be themed by topic for presentation at the meeting. We regret that it is not always possible to accommodate requests to present on a specific day and presenters and delegates are encouraged to attend the whole meeting.

Abstract structure and format

The entry should be in the form of a one page abstract. It should be submitted on or before the deadline date. The submitting author is assumed to have gained permission for submission from all co-authors and the submitted abstract should have been viewed by all authors listed.

Abstracts MUST conform to the following criteria or they will not be accepted:

- Must be no more than 420 words including abstract main text, headings, figure legends or acknowledgements, abstract title, author names and abbreviated references. Abstracts are processed by automated software within the website submission system and your word count may not concur with that of the software!
- We recommend uploading your draft abstract to the system – the system will tell you if you need to reduce the word count. You may edit and re-upload your abstract as many times as necessary.
- You must submit an editable .docx file (and not a .doc or .pdf).
- Must be on a single page with a minimum font size of 11pt Times New Roman or equivalent size with 2cm margins all round.
- Can include one figure or table on the single page. This should be appropriately annotated and placed below the main body of the text. Including a figure will reduce the word count available to you. Please make the figure or table an appropriate size so that the information can be read or viewed clearly without having to resize the image. All text within a table or figure should also have a minimum font size of 11 point.
- Can include up to three abbreviated references (see below). The abstract document you upload should conform to the following layout:
 - Title.
 - Authors (with the presenting author highlighted in bold) eg CA Smith, J Brown, S Smith.
 - The principal institution at which the work was carried out, or that of the presenting author.
 - Corresponding author email address (for correspondence should the abstract be published).
 - Arranged in the following sections, but without titles: Introduction, Methods, Results, Conclusions, Acknowledgements (if necessary); followed by Table/Figure below the main body of the text, then References (see below).

Up to three key abbreviated references are permitted if desired. Please limit to 3 authors and use abbreviated Index Medicus Journal Titles. E.g. Futier E, Constantin J-M, Paugam-Burtz C et al. N Engl J Med . 2013; 369: 428-37. The article title is not required.

Abstract submission

The website hosts an automated submission system. The submission process asks you to re-enter your title (Prof, Dr, Mr, Mrs, Miss etc), name, and the title of the abstract. This is in addition to the information you have provided in the abstract itself, embedded in your Word document. Please tick the relevant box if you are presenting the abstract yourself (in addition to highlighting the name of the presenter in bold in the author name list in the abstract itself) and if you are submitting the work for consideration of one of the prizes listed.

Next, navigate to your file's location on your computer and upload it. The website checks your work for compliance with the stated criteria. If your submission is rejected, please check carefully through your work, with reference to these detailed guidelines.

Presentation guidelines

Submitting authors will be notified if their abstract has been selected for presentation at the meeting. Unsuccessful submitters will also be notified. The presenting author will need to register for the meeting. Supervisors and co-authors are strongly encouraged to also attend and support their students, trainees and colleagues.

Presentations will usually be 8 minutes with 7 minutes for questions. This format may change slightly depending on the timings at the particular meeting. AV facilities are available at all meetings and a self-contained presentation on an unencrypted USB memory stick is preferred. All presenters must load and check their presentation prior to their allocated session.

Acceptable formats include MS Powerpoint, Apple Keynote, Prezi or PDFs. If required, authors may use their own lap-tops or other device. Please remember to bring appropriate VGA/HDMI dongles. Each session will have a chair who will keep you strictly to time. Please rehearse your presentation as over-runs will not be possible.

Questions are invited from the audience and most abstracts generate a lively discussion. Minor corrections to abstracts are possible on the day, in collaboration with representation from the BJA editorial team who will be present at the meeting.

Prizes and awards

Awards are available for presentations. The judges will assess the presentations based on the delivery, presentation content, scientific standard and the ability of the presenter to answer questions.

- The Annual Royal College of Anaesthetist's President's Prize for Undergraduate Research (only at the Spring meeting held at the Royal College of Anaesthetists, London). Students must be current UG (medical or science) students on the date of the meeting. A monetary prize is awarded for the best presentation.
- The Hughes medal for the best student (UG or PG) student at each meeting and the Mapleson medal for the best overall presentation at each meeting. The medals will be awarded at the next Forum meeting to which winners receive free registration and an engraved medal.