BJA Research Forum abstract submission guidelines

The Anaesthetic Research Society invites abstract submissions for oral presentation within the **Anaesthesia Research Meeting 2026 – Advancing Science, Transforming Care** held in collaboration with the National Institute of Academic Anaesthesia.

The top **5** abstracts will be offered an oral presentation within the main meeting programme.

In addition, highly scoring abstracts will be invited to present orally at an **'ARS Research Breakfast'** event held on the morning of **27/11/26.**

All presented abstracts will be offered **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 notify the target journal of the abstract presentation and publication. You may elect to present your work but not publish the abstract.

Abstracts are invited 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

The society does not usually accept presentations of work that has previously been published or presented nationally, however, if you wish your previously presented/published work to be considered, please contact the organisers.

Submissions are welcome from clinicians and academics, and from consultants, resident and medical students. Submissions from trainee networks are welcomed and encouraged. Clinical Scientists, Nurses and Allied Healthcare Professionals are also very welcome to submit abstracts.

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 by the reviewers:

- 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 is given to abstracts that are aligned to advertised meeting themes

Abstract structure and format

The entry should be in the form of an abstract and should be the authors' own work. 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 are processed by automated software within the website submission system. Abstracts must conform to the following criteria or they will not be accepted:

- Must be no more than 420 words for the abstract main text. This includes any headings, figure legends or acknowledgements, abstract title, author names and abbreviated references.
- 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.
- Must be an editable .docx file (and not a .doc or .pdf).
- Must be on a single page with a minimum font size of 11pt.
- Must have 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 may 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 Word 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.
- List the principle 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 titles are not required: 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. 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.
- Examples of published abstracts can be viewed here: Abstracts for Spring BJA Research Forum meeting, Royal College of Anaesthetists, London, 5th and 6th April 2017. British Journal of Anaesthesia, Volume 119, Issue 2, 1 August 2017, Pages e21–e30. https://doi.org/10.1093/bja/aex121

Abstract submission

The ARS website (The ARS and the BJA Research Forum · Anaesthetic Research Society) hosts an automated submission system. You will be asked to set up an account in order to login to the abstract submission portal.

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.

Questions?

You can contact the ARS committee by clicking this link: Contact Us · Anaesthetic Research Society