ARN Association of Rehabilitation Nurses

Writing an Abstract for a Research or QI Poster Presentation

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ANCC Accreditation Statement

The Association of Rehabilitation Nurses (ARN) is accredited as a provider of nursing continuing professional development by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation.

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Speaker Disclosure Statement

Theresa Pietsch, PhD, RN, CRRN, CNE, is an Associate Professor and Associate Dean of the Undergraduate Nursing Program at Neumann University in Aston, PA.

No off-label use will be discussed.

Theresa Pietsch has no industry relationships to disclose.

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Learning Outcomes

1. Describe the purpose of writing and submitting an abstract for a conference poster presentation

2. Discuss the major content headings of a research study or QI project abstract

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Learning Outcomes (cont.)

3. Discuss the importance of knowing the conference abstract guidelines e.g., word limitations, writing and reference formats such as APA

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What is an Abstract?

- Brief comprehensive summary of your project or study

- Expresses your "thesis" and key points

- Often limited from 250 to 500 words

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Examples of ARN Abstract Categories

- QI Project

- Research/Scientific

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Purposes of an Abstract

- To create interest for your reviewers and readers to want more information

- To provide reviewers and readers with an accurate, concise, and brief summary of the major points of the content

(University of Wisconsin – Madison, 2021)

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Purposes of an Abstract (cont.)

- To facilitate reviewers and readers discussion of the poster presentation after viewing

- Disseminate your evidence to internal and external audiences

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What to Know About Poster Abstracts for ARN Before Writing

- Create an account in ARN portal

- ARN word limit for abstract submission

- Required sections of your abstract

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What to Know About Poster Abstracts Before Writing (cont.)

- Writing format e.g., APA 7th edition

- ARN topics that best aligns with your work

- If more than one author, identify lead author and order of remaining authors

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Use the "ABC" to Guide Your Writing

- *Accuracy* : Mirror the same content as your original work
- *Brevity* : Straight to the major points. Minimize words without changing the meaning of your written language
- Clarity : Clear and transparent language

(Indiana University Bloomington, 2021)

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More Guiding Principles for Writing

- Write with complete sentences

- Avoid jargon that could be misinterpreted such as nursing staff. Be specific e.g., registered nurses

(Indiana University Bloomington, 2021)

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More Guiding Principles for Writing (cont.)

- Determine where to use past or present tense verbs in the abstract parts. For example:

  Past tense verbs: literature review, method, and results/findings

  Present tense verbs: gap in knowledge and implications to practice

(University of Wisconsin – Madison, 2021)

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Nuts and Bolts of the Poster Abstract

Parts of the Abstract for Poster Submission

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Abstract Format

- Option One: Paragraph Format

  Single paragraph without indentation of first word

- Option Two: Structured Format

  Single paragraph without indentation of first word

  Insert labels such as Background, Results, and Implications to Practice

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Research Headings/Sections

- Title and Authors with their affiliations
- Introduction/Background
- Methods

For each section, explain with accuracy, brevity, and clarity

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Research Headings/Sections (cont.)

- Results
- Conclusions/Recommendations
- References
- Acknowledgments (include funding)

For each section, explain with accuracy, brevity, and clarity

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QI Headings/Sections

- Title and Authors with their affiliations
- Problem & Aims
- QI Model/Approach

For each section, explain with accuracy, clarity, and brevity

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QI Headings/Sections (cont.)

- Intervention/Change
- Results
- Standardization of change

For each section, explain with accuracy, brevity, and clarity

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QI Headings/Sections (cont.)

- References
- Acknowledgements

For each section, explain with accuracy, brevity, and clarity

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Read Before Submit

- Ask for others to read before you submit

- Provide your chosen readers specific directions such as:
  - Check for spelling and grammatical errors
  - Check for consistency of terms

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Consider Evidence
Create an IARC

- Suggest forming an internal abstract review committee (IARC) at your work
- Select individuals with education and/or experience preparing and presenting at conferences
- Plan and leave time to use the IARC

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Consider Evidence
Create an IARC (cont.)

- Submit your abstract and ARN guidelines to internal committee prior to ARN submission
- Read IARC feedback carefully
- Ask for clarification about IRAC comments you are unsure of

(Welden, Carson, & Wathen, 2020)

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Key Points: High Quality Poster Abstracts

- Stand-alone
- Interconnect the abstract parts
- Create the interest of reviewers and readers
- Encourage the reviewers and readers to read and discuss your poster

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More Questions

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