Abstract Submissions Guide

AATB Scientific & Technical Affairs Committee

2026

Communicate What You Know

- Scientific discovery achieves its greatest impact when new knowledge is shared with the broader tissue banking community.
- AATB provides a premier forum for the dissemination of scientific discovery, professional practice advancement, and innovation in tissue banking and biologics.
- Abstracts should be viewed as a concise scholarly summary that communicates the significance, rigor, and impact of your work to the tissue banking community

Anatomy of an Abstract

- Abstracts present discrete data and observations in a concise scientific format.
- Data are typically reported in a single abstract submission and may later be integrated into a full peer-reviewed manuscript.
- Often data is only presented in one abstract
  - Not repeated in abstracts for other meetings
  - Can combine data from multiple abstracts into peer-reviewed papers

Guidelines

- Generally, each meeting will have specific guidelines
- Abstracts are usually limited to one page
- Individual meetings and societies may have other specific guidelines/limits.
- Some examples of other limits include:
  - # of words
  - # of figures
  - Clinical significance
  - Topic Relevance
  - English

Key to Writing a Successful Abstract

- Plan your thoughts
- Present a clear hypothesis or objective
- Select key figures or charts to present data
- State statistics (*p* values are important)
  - abstracts do not require long discussions on statistics
- Present a clear conclusion and relevance
- Conciseness and clarity are key

General Abstract Sections

- Title
- Authors with Affiliations
- Background
- Methods
- Results
- Conclusions
- Keyword
- Clinical Trial Registry
- Disclosures
- Corresponding Author
- References
- Tables and Figures

Title

- The title is the key to a successful abstract. You want to get the reader excited enough about the work to:
  - read the abstract in its entirety
  - see the poster/presentation when it's presented
- The title should be brief, clearly indicating the nature of the presentation
  - Avoid using all capital letters in the title
  - Do not put a period at the end of the title
  - Accurately describe the questions answered by the study

- **Examples:**
  - Method XYZ is an Improved Cleaning Method for Musculoskeletal Allograft Donors
  - XYZ is a Predictor of Donor Deferral Rates

Authors

- List all authors involved in study design
- List all who significantly contributed to study execution
- Primary author is generally the individual primarily responsible for the research question and analysis
- Affiliations must be included

Introduction

- The introduction should clearly characterize the scientific question investigated.
- Background information should be provided to the extent that it introduces the current study and documents its importance to the literature or the tissue banking community.
- Hypothesis or research questions should be stated here.

Methods

- Materials and analytical procedures used should be briefly explained.
- General reagents (e.g. buffers, deionized water, etc.) need not be included if they are not unique to the work.
- Demonstrate how the methods presented will address the questions in the introduction section.

- Examples:
  - what essential reagents were used
  - what patients or tissue samples were studied
  - what special techniques were applied and how
  - what type of study was performed (e.g. prospective, retrospective, case-control)
  - what data were examined and the sample size evaluated

Results

- Summarize the results in sufficient detail to support the conclusion.
- Results of significant positive and negative findings should be presented as concisely as possible.
- Most rejected abstracts are rejected because of inadequate data.
- To state "results will be presented" is uninformative and of little value.
- When expressing laboratory values, use conventional units followed by SI units in parentheses.
- Data can be presented as charts or graphs instead of as text.
- Make sure any conclusions you reach are supported by the data presented.

Discussion

- Brief discussion of the significance of the findings

- Comment on relationship of current study results with other published studies
  - If these results contradict published studies, it is appropriate to include potential reasons why.

- Include relevance of the research topic to the AATB Membership
  - For example, this study is relevant to birth tissue allograft due to XYZ.

Conclusion

- Keep it short and concise!
- State the primary conclusions clearly and concisely
- Do not state “results will be discussed”
- Conclusions should include any recommendations for future study, as well as the implications and significance of the data presented
- Do not introduce concepts not considered in the body of the abstract

Funding Sources, Disclosures and References

- Funding Sources and Disclosures:
  - Potential conflict of interest by authors must be disclosed.
  - Every society/meeting has different policies
  - Disclosures will be published in meeting guides, abstract books, at presentations, etc.
  - This does not influence the review or acceptance of abstract, but rather is a means to provide transparency about potential bias.

- References: refer to any cited published work

Keywords

- Keywords are used for indexing purposes
- Without proper keywords, indexing searches are difficult and may prevent your abstract from being found

- Some examples:
  - Allograft
  - Microbial Reduction
  - Retrospective Study
  - Bioburden

Common Reasons for Abstract Rejection

- Poorly supported research hypothesis, objective or rationale
- Experimental plan vague and/or not well documented or described
- Insufficient data collected
- Poor analysis of the data
- Conclusions not supported by the results
- Poor grammar/figures/tables

Review Process for Abstracts

- Reviewers evaluate scientific rigor, relevance to the tissue banking community, clarity of presentation, and overall impact.
- Score based on average score from multiple peer reviewers
- One review round
- Final selection or rejection

- Poster vs. Podium Selection
  - Winner and spotlight abstracts are selected for podium presentations in the following categories
    - Scientific Research
    - Practice, Quality, and Translational Innovation