

## **AIDS 2010 ABSTRACT MENTOR PROGRAMME (AMP) FAQs**

### **A. Objectives and Rationale**

#### **What is abstract mentoring?**

If you don't have a lot of experience in writing scientific abstracts, a mentor can help you. We have a pool of around 40-60 mentors who can provide advice and feedback on how to write successful abstracts for each of the conference tracks.

#### **When is the programme available?**

We open at the same time that as the abstract submission period (1 November 2009), and we close 2 weeks before the abstract submission deadline.

#### **Why does the International AIDS Society provide this service?**

Mentoring support is proven to increase the chance of young and less-experienced HIV researchers of having their abstracts accepted for a conference. It's also a way for you to have a fresh pair of eyes review your work, and share their expertise with you.

#### **Who can use this mentoring service?**

All conference delegates can use the mentoring service. We especially encourage researchers from developing countries to take advantage of this unique opportunity.

#### **What are the results of using the AMP?**

For AIDS 2008, 40 out of 59 submitted abstracts which received mentoring were successful. For IAS 2009, 46 out of 84 submitted abstracts that were mentored were successful.

#### **Is the mentoring free?**

Absolutely! The mentoring is free. But to avoid overload, each delegate is recommended to submit not more than 2 draft abstracts for review.

### **B. Process**

#### **So, how does this thing work?**

Start by submitting your draft abstract online.

#### **Hmm, how do I do this?**

First, create your [conference profile](#).

Through that, click on the box that says "Abstract Mentor Programme" and follow the easy steps.

*We cannot accept abstracts submitted by e-mail, fax, telephone and regular mail.*

### **Then what happens?**

We match you to a mentor who can best provide feedback in your abstract research area.

### **What does the mentor do?**

Mentors will review your abstract based on a set of guidelines. They will provide feedback using these guidelines. Click [here](#) for a copy of the mentor feedback guidelines

### **How do I get the mentor's feedback?**

Mentors send their feedback to IAS, and we then forward it to you by e-mail – so be sure you have a working e-mail address.

### **Is the service available only in English?**

At this time, it is only available in English.

*Note: all abstracts for the conference must be in English.*

### **Do I have to be registered for the Conference to participate as a mentor or to submit a question?**

No, you don't have to register for the Conference to use this service. But, you need to create an online "Conference Profile" [[hyperlink to "My conference profile"](#)]

### **I don't know what to ask a mentor - any suggestions?**

You can ask questions on the scientific content, as well as the language of your abstract.

From previous conferences, some questions that have been asked are:

- "Is my introduction extensive enough?"
- "Are my conclusions clear and well supported by my collected data?"
- "Have I described the method I have used well enough?"
- "What part of the abstract could I edit to shorten my abstract?"
- "Would a graph or table be useful?"
- "What other conclusions/lessons learned should I list?"

You can also ask mentors questions on practical issues, such as clarity of writing and formal requirements of the abstract, as well as any methodological or scientific questions that may arise from the abstract content. The answers will guide you to edit and improvements to the abstract before you submit it officially to the conference.

*Note: Mentors may not write, translate or make the changes to the draft abstract on your behalf.*

**What questions can I NOT ask mentors?**

Please do NOT ask the mentor if you think your abstract will be accepted for the conference.

**How long do mentors take to respond?**

We try to ensure that all abstracts are reviewed within two weeks of submission.

*Note: It can take a little longer if the abstract has to be sent to several mentors should the first mentor not be able to review the abstract.*

**Can I be an abstract mentor?**

Sure! We welcome HIV/AIDS and public health professionals with experience in HIV research, who have had three abstracts accepted, or been awarded an IAS-sponsored conference prize or scholarship, or who have been main author for at least 2-3 manuscripts accepted by peer-reviewed scientific journals

**Is abstract mentoring a part of the abstract review and selection process?**

No, mentoring is completely independent of the abstract review and selection process.

**Can I have a longer discussion with my mentor if I want more support?**

Sure, we can put you in touch with the mentor, after we ask the mentor's permission. Please remember that mentors are busy researchers, who are volunteering free academic support, and we don't want to spam them.

**I don't have an abstract, but have a question about abstracts! What do I do?**

Well, send your question in an e-mail to [mentor@aids2010.org](mailto:mentor@aids2010.org), and we'll try to answer it as fast as we can.

**Before I send my abstract to a mentor, I need to write it, so what kind of help do you provide?**

Simple – visit our webpage [www.aids2010.org/abstract\\_mentor.aspx](http://www.aids2010.org/abstract_mentor.aspx) and check out some of the great resources we have for you:

1. Download a toolkit on writing abstracts – available in 5 languages!
2. Read some of the prize-winning abstracts from previous conferences – notice how they use language, and their data, to make a case about why their abstract should be accepted for a competitive international conference.
3. Learn the top 5 reasons why abstracts are rejected.
4. [Download](#) and study our workshop materials on ‘How to write a prize-winning abstract’
5. Check out these free resources on scientific writing from [AuthorAID](#). At AuthorAID, you can learn all about writing introductions, methods, results, conclusions, preparing tables and figures, and much more.

You can also learn to prepare posters, oral presentations, case studies – everything to ensure that when your abstract is accepted, you will be very well prepared to present it at the International AIDS Conference.

**So what are you waiting for?**

Visit [www.aids2010.org/abstract\\_mentor.aspx](http://www.aids2010.org/abstract_mentor.aspx) today!