

Top 5 reasons why abstracts are not accepted to a conference

The information below is based on individual interviews that were conducted with eight Track Committee members of a previous conference.

- 1. Poor scientific content!**
- 2. Abstracts submitted in the wrong category or track (or conference)**
- 3. Abstracts poorly constructed**
- 4. Data presented too preliminary**
- 5. Abstracts of reasonable scientific quality but lacking novelty, already published, or not contributing to the field**

Suggestions for improving the quality of these abstracts

1. Poor scientific content!

This means that the abstracts:

- a) described the science but did not provide sufficient, strong data/evidence to allow the quality of the abstract to be assessed;
- b) did not provide any hard data, just a summary statement, a description or an hypothesis;
- c) were too brief, made general comments or were opinion pieces;
- d) made interesting or novel statements which were technically flawed or unsupported by hard data.

2. Abstracts submitted in the wrong category or track (or conference)

Read the descriptions of each category carefully

3. Abstracts poorly constructed

Make sure that you shape your abstract as requested, within the guidelines of the particular conference. For IAS 2009, an abstract should include:

Intro
Method
Results
Conclusion

The abstract text should not exceed 300 words.

4. Data presented too preliminary

Make sure your results are statistically significant with an appropriate sample size and the conclusions you draw are based on the data that you gathered. If your data is too preliminary it would be advisable for you to continue the research and gather more data before presenting it to a conference.

5. Abstracts of reasonable scientific quality but lacking novelty, already published, or not contributing to the field

The reviewers will be looking for research which builds on studies which have been previously reported on and which add insight to or build on knowledge

already in the field. An abstract cannot be submitted if it has been previously published or presented, unless there are major updates in the data. If preliminary or partial data has been published, the author is required to indicate the details of the conference, meeting or journal.