

How to Write an Abstract for Submission to the STP Poster Sessions

When writing an abstract for submission to the STP for a student poster and/or student poster award, it is important to follow the posted guidelines for the abstract. Abstracts not following these guidelines will not be considered for awards.

- 1) The poster and abstract content should be focused on topics relevant to the discipline of toxicologic pathology. This can include, but is not limited to, comparative pathology, molecular pathology, applied pharmacology, toxicology, laboratory animal pathology, environmental toxicology, therapeutic testing, and other associated topics. Relevant work can be retrospective analysis of data, prospective experimental work, case studies, procedural reports, methodology reports, or other similar material. It is important that the abstract reflect the relevance of the work being presented to the discipline of toxicologic pathology.
 - a. Examples of inappropriate work would include clinical case reports with no toxic component, infectious disease reports with no toxicity or therapeutic testing component, experiments that have no link to toxicology or pathology, and the like.
 - b. However, remember that the field of toxicologic pathology is wide-ranging and encompasses a broad spread of disciplines, not just “toxicology + pathology.” The STP welcomes abstracts covering the entire range of the field.
- 2) Ensure that the abstract has been checked for grammar, spelling, and accuracy.
- 3) All authors should review the abstract and approve it prior to submission.
- 4) The abstract should reflect the work being presented, as laid out here. It is convenient to use subheadings for individual sentences and the ordering of sentences in the abstract should reflect the order given here, but **subheadings are not required for the submitted abstract**. However, you may find it helpful to include subheadings in the draft to facilitate composition of the abstract; delete or include subheadings in the final submission based on the authors’ discretion.
- 5) If possible, specific numbers and details of the experimental results should be included in the abstract. Inclusion of these details allows the reader and judges to assess the abstract and the presented data as a whole.
- 6) Key components of the abstract include the following:
 - a. **Introduction/Objectives** – This section lays out the rationale for the work being presented, as well as the proposed objective(s) for the work and the hypotheses being put forward, if any. In short, explain why the work is important and what it adds to the current body of knowledge. Only include background that is relevant to why the study was performed.
 - b. **Experimental Design/Methods and Materials** – This section should lay out the experimental design, including any materials or methods that are key to the study. Examples of key points include number of animals, specific experimental manipulations,

tests, or the like. However, this section should be kept short and more focus placed on the results and conclusions.

- c. **Results** – This should be the meat of the abstract, succinctly laying out what was seen in the experiments or investigations that were performed. Specific details for the results should be included as well, to whatever degree possible. It is generally better to present only relevant data, including the primary outcome and key secondary outcomes.
 - d. **Conclusion** – This should be a brief statement of the main outcome of the study.
 - e. **Impact Statement** – This closing statement should attempt to convey the overall significance and potential impact of the research and the findings to science and the field of toxicologic pathology. It will generally be a single sentence.
- 7) Note that the abstract should serve as the outline for the poster presentation. Please keep this in mind when crafting your poster.