



Skills and insights into preparing an abstract and scientific poster

Clare Warnock
Senior Project Nurse
Weston Park Hospital

Lavinia Magee
Nurse Consultant Thoracic Oncology
Papworth Hospital
NLCFN Committee Member



Definition

- A short form of a speech, article, book giving only the most important facts or ideas...
 - Summary, synopsis, precis, resume, outline, abridgement
 - Reader's 1st encounter
 - Advertisement
 - Decisions are made





Abstract type

- Descriptive
 - Purpose, goal, method
- Informative
 - Includes results
- Conferences / journals have specific style guides
- Ensure agreement from all authors
- Keywords



Qualities of a good abstract

- Condensed version of full paper
- Standalone
- Word count – limit and make every...
- Precise, concise, direct writing skills
- Structure
 - Background
 - Method
 - Results
 - Conclusion





Writing an abstract

- Assess your task
 - Deadline, length, purpose, audience
- Start strong
- Grammar – correct!
- 4C's
 - Complete
 - Concise
 - Clear
 - Cohesive





Style and flow

- Strong title
- Use past or present tense
- Read aloud
 - Content accuracy and flow
 - Transition words “additionally” or “furthermore”
 - Avoid vague adjectives e.g. “very”, “many”
 - Desire to read more





Poster time!



The 5 “W’s”

- Who
- What
- Where
- When
- Why





Poster purpose

- Convey findings
 - catch the eye
- Know the audience
- Clear take-home message in a few minutes
- Acronyms – spell out at first usage
- Contact details
- Consider handout
- Opportunity to interact with individual viewers
 - viewer can drive focus of discussion, 2-way





Design

- Powerpoint – single slide
 - Design – Page Setup
- Size – A1 / A0
- Orientation - Landscape / Portrait
- Title – at least 40-point type
- Body – at least 14-point type
- Fabric





Key points

- Check conference rules / guidelines
- Avoid brightly coloured text, dark backgrounds, unnecessary images or animations
- Charts – let your figures do the talking
- Bullet points
- Tables
- Aim and conclusions visible and understandable
- Ask friend / colleague to review



Poster scoring / judging



Circle one rating for each question

5 = very good 4 = good 3 = average 2 = passable 1 = poor NA = not applicable

Total maximum score: 20 points

1	Aims: clarity, novelty	5	4	3	2	1	NA
2	Methods: design, validity, subjects defined	5	4	3	2	1	NA
3	Results: clarity, presentation	5	4	3	2	1	NA
4	Conclusions: appropriate, valid, related to hypothesis	5	4	3	2	1	NA
	Totals						
	Grand Total						

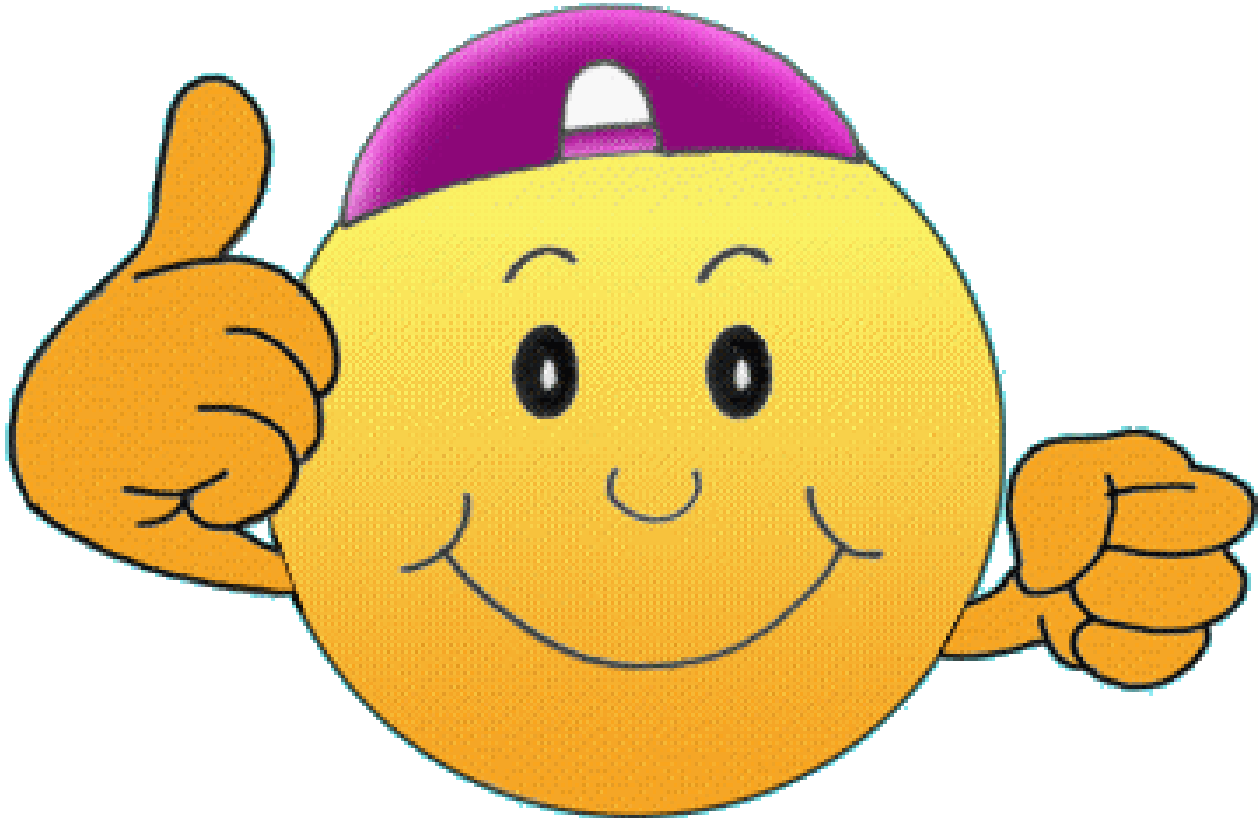
Additional Comments:

is it a clear winner?

is it the best in the section?



GO FOR IT !



GOOD LUCK !