

BSAVA Congress Clinical Abstract Application Guidelines

Introduction

The Clinical Abstracts sessions at BSAVA Congress provide an opportunity to present current research and other information of significance to veterinary practice (e.g. unusual case reports and novel procedures). Each abstract will be reviewed by a panel of experts and a selection chosen for inclusion in the Congress Programme.

Applications are welcome from veterinary surgeons, veterinary nurses, practice managers, veterinary students, student veterinary nurses and other researchers with research of direct relevance to veterinary practice.

Clinical Abstracts may be in the form of an oral presentation or poster. Some types of presentation, such as those that require large data tables or multiple figures, or single case reports, are more suitable for poster presentations. Applicants may indicate their preference but the final decision on the format will be with the Congress Programme Committee.

The presenting author of the abstract will be entitled to FREE Registration for the whole of Congress as a BSAVA member or for the day of the presentation for a non-member.

Oral presentations

Oral presentations allow for a short 12-minute presentation of the material in the submitted abstract plus 3 minutes for questions and the changeover. Presenters are reminded that it is very important to stick within the time limit.

Poster presentations

If your Clinical Abstract is accepted as a poster it must be on display by 09:00 on Thursday 2 April, access to the venue is available from 13:00 on Wednesday 1 April. Posters must remain in place until 16:30 on Saturday 4 April. Please do not remove your poster before this time. Any posters left behind after 18:30 will be removed and we are unable to return them.

The presenting author must be in attendance at the poster presentation event on Friday of Congress, 13:00-14:00 in order to answer questions from delegates.

Should you present a poster at congress we would like a copy via PDF that we may display on our website. Please email a copy to speakers@bsava.com

All posters must be size A0 (1.189m x 0.841m) in Portrait format

The poster must contain title, authors, affiliations, references and details of funding and conflicts of interest, where these exist, in addition to the headings covered in the abstract (see below). The figures, tables, etc. must be presented within the dimensions given, and the poster must be written in UK English and SI units.

The ICC offers a print and display service for a colour A0 portrait poster. Any posters printed at The ICC will automatically be displayed on your behalf.

Please contact Trevor Harris +44 (0) 121 644 5093 trevor.harris@theicc.co.uk

Prizes available for Clinical Abstracts in 2020

Following Congress, we award a prize to the best presentation in up to 6 different categories. The winners will receive free registration to Congress the following year where they will receive their certificate and £300 prize money.

Clinical Abstracts eligible for prizes will be judged both on the clarity of the abstract in answering the questions given in table 1, presentation skills (whether oral or poster) and the likely impact/significance of the information contained.

- **Medicine** - Awarded for the best medicine submission.
- **Surgery** - Awarded for the best surgery submission.
- **Practitioner** - This prize is awarded for the best abstract presented by a non-specialist veterinary surgeon in a non-academic primary care practice. Non-academic practice is defined as a practice which does not supervise approved residency training programmes.
- **Nurse/Practice Manager** - Awarded for the best submission from someone who is either a Veterinary Nurse or a Practice Manager.
- **Poster** - Awarded to the best poster presentation. All poster presenters are eligible for this prize.
- **Student** – Awarded for the best presentation by a student (vet or vet nurse).

Submission guidelines

Submissions for Congress 2020 will open online from 16 September 2019 – 21 October 2019 at midnight.

Format

The format for your abstract should follow that for submission of a paper for publication. The abstract is a concise structured summary divided, under separate headings into Objectives, Methods, Results and Impact. Each section should address the questions given in table 1 below. The purpose of the abstract is to capture the interest of the reader, while accurately reflecting the content of the intended presentation, poster or publication.

Table 1: Structure of Clinical Abstract indicating questions to be answered.

Title	The title should be precise and attention-catching but should also describe what you are writing about
Objectives	What is the question that is being asked / answered?
Methods	What is the type of study? What is the study population? How were the data analysed?
Results	What were the findings?
Impact/ Clinical Significance	What are the implications and for whom?
Funding / Declarations of interest	

Abstract guidelines

A structured summary – concise, no more than 250 words (excluding title and declarations of interest), divided, under separate headings, into Objectives, Methods, Results, and a brief (2 sentence) statement explaining the impact of the work on small animal primary care or referral clinical practice. The Summary should not contain non-standard abbreviations or acronyms.

Abstracts are not edited after approval. Therefore, you are advised to check your abstract very carefully before submission, since it will be printed exactly as submitted. Once the abstract is submitted, changes to the abstract will not be accepted.

Submission Rules

- Please DO NOT submit an abstract on behalf of another person.
- Abstracts must be submitted using the abstract template which includes the headers Objectives, Methods, Results, and Statement.
- The abstract must be submitted by the presenting author.
- Abstracts must not exceed 250 words (excluding title and declarations of interest and author details).
- The authors, and their place of work, should **not** be identified in the main text of the abstract. The assessment process is blinded and the abstracts must be anonymised on submission.
- Abstracts submitted for consideration should not have been presented at other Congresses, nor published in journals before Congress. They can have be shown at local CPD events.

- Abstracts must be written in U.K. English and using SI units.
- All research presented must comply with UK legislation pertaining to animal welfare, ethics and data protection. Work performed outside the UK must still comply with the UK Veterinary Surgeons Act or should reasonably be expected NOT to require a UK Home Office licence if performed in the UK. See information on ethics below.
- Use of Trade names is not permitted in the abstract.
- As a rule of thumb, diagrams and references are not acceptable in the abstract.
- It is the author's responsibility to ensure that they have obtained permission for use of any copyright images or materials.

Clinical Abstracts will be rejected without further scrutiny if they fail to comply with the submission rules or if they:

- Are received after the closing date.
- Do not follow the structured summary detailed above.
- Are considered too preliminary in nature or are deemed to be of low scientific quality.
- Are not relevant to small animal veterinary practice or clinical science.
- Do not meet the ethical guidelines outlined above and/or do not have satisfactory ethical approval from the relevant regulatory bodies or are deemed to have caused unnecessary pain, distress, suffering, or lasting harm to animals.

Presentation rules

- **Submitting author should be first author.**
- First author must be presenting author.
- The oral and poster presentation at Congress must concentrate on the information contained in the abstract and in answering the questioned detailed in table 1.
- Specific advertising of products by presenters must not occur.

Ethics

- All Clinical abstracts submitted should comply with UK legislation pertaining to animal welfare, ethics and data protection.
- Clinical abstracts reporting any intervention on animals will only be accepted if they would not require [Home Office Licensing under the Animals \(Scientific Procedures\) Act](#). That is
 - Procedures carried out as part of [Recognised Veterinary Practice \(non-experimental clinical practice\)](#)
 - Veterinary clinical trials
 - Recognised husbandry practices
- Authors may find the RCVS / BVA Ethical Review Working Party Report helpful in fulfilling these requirements

Authors are advised to consult Helen Field (h.field@bsava.com) if they are unsure about any of these regulations.