Creating a Successful Abstract
Amy Bok MSN, RN, CRRN

Speaker Disclosure Statement
Amy Bok, MSN, RN, CRRN, is a Nursing Manager at Bon Secour Mercy Health St. Rita's in Lima, Ohio.
No off-label use will be discussed.
Amy Bok has no industry relationships to disclose.

What is an Abstract?
• Brief snapshot of your work
• Introduce your work to the reviewer
• Informs them about your work
• Helps them decide if your work is of interest, helpful, fitting
• Can stand alone

What information is included?
• In general includes:
  – Introduction
  – Methods
  – Results
  – Discussion
  – Conclusion
• Tells the reader:
  – What you did
  – Why you did it
  – How you did it
  – What you found
  – What it means

ANCC Accreditation Statement
The Association of Rehabilitation Nurses (ARN) is accredited as a provider of continuing nursing education by the American Nurses Credentialing Center’s Commission on Accreditation (ANCC-COA).

Learning Outcomes
1. The learner will be able to share what should be included in an abstract.
2. The learner will share tips that make their abstract more desirable to reviewers.
Steps to Writing an Abstract

- Reread your report focus on purpose, methods, scope, results, conclusions, and recommendations.
- Write a rough draft abstract.
- Revise.
- Proofread final copy.

Focus

- Providing the reason your idea is appropriate for presentation.
  - State the problem
  - Research method used
  - Data you will produce or process
  - What findings will be discussed
- Submitting for a case study - discussion questions

Background/Introduction

- Shortest part of the abstract
- What is already known about the subject
- What is not known and what the study seeks to present/examine

Methods

- Tell the reader what was done
- Sample size - division of groups
- Research design
- Duration of study
- Setting of the study
- Primary outcome measure and how it was defined

Results/Findings

- Most important - readers are drawn to this
- Number of subjects completing the study
- Results of analysis of primary and more important secondary objectives
- Important negative findings
- Numerical information of analyses

Conclusions/Implications

- Most important “take-home message” of the study
- Additional findings of importance
- Theoretical or practical implications/importance
Miscellaneous

- Citation of references is inappropriate/unnecessary
- Details about safety assessments unless specifically needed
- Details about statistical methods or software used or statistical criterion

General Tips

- Think carefully about the title—first impressions!
- Keep the introduction brief—save your words for the methods and results sections.
- Clearly state the objective of your work. Make sure it aligns with your results and conclusion.

Tips for Writer’s Block

- Ask for help
- Remember the rough draft is not the final draft
- Start with major ideas and add detail
- Make a schedule, work in chunks
- Set a timer
- Take a break

Considering Submission?

- Review the call for abstracts that comes via email or on the ARN website
- Process for review/selection
- Highly desired topics- Competency Model, access to care, quality improvements, safety

Evidence-based practice

- Use of viable sources is important, as there is research to back up your presentation.
- The EBP is either from the sources alone or from research your facility has completed.
- The topic may not be new, but your approach to an “old” problem may be.

Conference Goals and Objectives 2020

- Examine state-of-the-art approaches to improving rehabilitation patient care and outcomes
- Apply strategic knowledge about current issues facing rehabilitation nurses and the healthcare industry
- Incorporate evidence-based interventions into practice for the rehabilitation of patients with a variety of diagnoses
What are conference organizers seeking?

- Quality Improvement
- Evidence-based practice
- Research
- Education
- Leadership
- Program Evaluation

Method of Sharing

- Paper
- Case Study
- Poster
- Volunteer to present your work in multiple ways.

Show Respect

- Verify your topic meets criteria
- Limit word count to the indicated amount
- Follow the format instructions
- Use of correct English syntax and spelling
- Adhere to the submission deadline.
- Use only professionally recognized references
- NO Wikipedia!

Review of abstracts

- Scored according to:
  - Significance, creative, innovative
  - Methods
  - Results, Evaluation with outcomes
  - Implications, potential to add knowledge
  - Questions- are they likely to generate discussion?

Why should you share your work?

- You do amazing things everyday. Be proud!
- Something you have solved is still someone’s barrier.
- Sharing your work engages your team.
- You are helping advance rehabilitation nursing.
- You are contributing to the body of nursing knowledge.
- If it isn’t documented it wasn’t done.

References

Thank You!

I look forward to hearing about your amazing work in 2021!