



## Guidelines for free paper and poster abstracts

Submissions for free paper and poster abstracts are only accepted via the [online submission form](#). All correspondence will be with the person who submits the proposal.

### Important dates

- Submission deadline: **Monday, 7 September 2026**, 23:59 UTC
- Submitter notified of acceptance by email: Monday, 2 November 2026
- Presenter registration deadline: Monday, 14 December 2026

Presenters **MUST** register for the World Congress by the presenter registration deadline or the presentation may be removed from the programme. Presenter substitutions are not allowed except in extraordinary circumstances in which case they must be discussed and approved in advance by the Scientific Programme Committee – SPC (see Questions for contact information). Whilst multiple submissions from one individual and/or group are allowed, the Scientific Programme Committee reserves the right to manage the final number of submissions that will appear in the final programme.

### Financial support

ISPO does not provide any financial support – such as a registration waiver, accommodation and/or travel support – to presenters. Presenters are responsible for their own expenses related to their congress participation.

### Online submission form

Submissions are accepted via [online submission form](https://app.oxfordabstracts.com/stages/81043/submitter) (<https://app.oxfordabstracts.com/stages/81043/submitter>). You will be directed to register for an Oxford Abstracts account. If you have submitted an abstract for ISPO 2019, 2021, 2023 and/or 2025, you already have an account and can log into this account if you remember these details – email address is mandatory, password can be reset.

Once you have registered or logged in, you can make your submission by completing all mandatory fields in the online submission form. **If mandatory fields are left incomplete and/or a word count exceeds the permitted limit**, your submission will be marked as 'incomplete' and you need to edit and resubmit it prior to the submission deadline. **Any submission that is incomplete by the closing date will not be reviewed.**

### Language

The official language of the congress is English. Only submissions written in English and presentations held in English are accepted.

### Presentation category

During online submission, the presentation category for which you wish your abstract to be considered should be selected from the following two options:

- Free paper (oral) or poster presentation
- Poster presentation only

If you require clarification of the session formats, please review the descriptions below. The SPC reserves the right to assign a submission to a different presentation category if it is deemed more appropriate.

## Session formats

**Free paper sessions:** A free paper is a professional communication describing qualitative / quantitative / mixed methods research such as a technique, case study, case series, clinical trial, review, experiment, delivered as an oral podium presentation during the congress. Abstracts of free papers are reviewed by a panel of experts to verify relevance, quality and innovation. Top ranking free papers are selected for oral presentation. Free paper presentations are generally grouped into sessions that are thematically related.

**Poster presentations:** A poster may describe qualitative / quantitative / mixed methods research such as a technique, case study, case series, clinical trial, systematic review, or experiment. In contrast to free papers, a poster may present preliminary results or works in progress. Abstracts of poster presentations are reviewed by a panel of experts to verify relevance for delegates. Accepted posters are displayed either physically or digitally, with designated poster viewing times to allow attendees to interact with poster presenters. Selected presenters of the highest ranked posters may be invited to present in rapid fire poster pitches.

**3 Minute Thesis (3MT) student competition:** Applicants can submit their abstract to be considered for the 3MT student competition as well as the free paper and poster sessions given the latter enables a more detailed overview of their work.

The 3 Minute Thesis (3MT) is an academic competition that assists current students with fostering effective presentation and communication skills. Interested students registered in an undergraduate, masters or PhD programme are invited to submit abstracts to this competition. Abstracts are reviewed by a panel of experts and successful applicants will be allowed three minutes in the 3MT student competition session to explain the breadth and significance of their research project to a multidisciplinary audience. Entering an abstract to the 3MT student competition does not preclude the abstract being submitted additionally in another format e.g. free paper or poster.

Further information about the 3MT student competition and submitting to that format can be found in the [Guidelines for the 3MT student competition](#).

## Congress topics

The programme will be organised by topics that are of interest to the international ISPO community. During online submission, the submitter will be asked to select the [primary and secondary topics](#) applicable to their free paper / poster.

The theme of the ISPO 21<sup>st</sup> World Congress will be "[A World Connected: Advancing Assistive Technologies for Global Equity](#)". We encourage presenters to highlight links to this theme where possible.

The Scientific Programme Committee reserves the right to assign a submission to a different topic if it is deemed more appropriate.

## Title

The title of the abstract should concisely reflect the content. Please enter the title in Title Case (use capital letters for the important words or proper nouns), maximum of 20 words.

## Abstract body

A structured abstract of **max. 400 words** is to be submitted via the online system. Please note that if your word count is over the permitted limit, your abstract will be marked as 'incomplete'. We advise preparing the abstract in WORD and then copying and pasting it from WORD into the abstract fields of the online submission. Copying **one table or one figure** with a [caption](#) from WORD is allowed. Be aware that the content of the entire abstract inclusive of one figure or table and its caption must fit on one A4 page.

The following structure is to be adhered to:

1. Background (70 words suggested)
2. Aim (30 words suggested)
3. Method (100 words suggested)
4. Results (130 words suggested, **one image or one table** can be inserted, see \*note below)
5. Discussion and conclusion (70 words suggested)
6. References (optional)
7. Acknowledgements (optional)

\*NOTE: The figure or table should be legible at a maximum size of 5"/12.7cm x 2.5"/6.4cm. If you upload one figure or one table as part of your abstract, please review the appearance of your submitted abstract via the link, which is included in the email notification you receive after completing your submission.

### Abstract triage – Feedback opportunity

Are you looking for valuable insights into how to craft a high-quality scientific abstract and deliver an engaging presentation? Watch the recordings of the following two webinars:

- [“Mastering the art of writing a scientific abstract”](#), presented by Dr. Jaap van Netten in October 2024
- [“How to deliver a high-quality and engaging oral presentation that people will remember”](#), presented by Dr. Michael Dillon in April 2025

Feedback prior to submission (abstract triage) is available upon request. **The intention of the offer of feedback relates primarily to the formatting, composition and structure of the abstract.**

Abstract triage is primarily aimed at authors:

- a) who are new to scientific research,
- b) do not have mentors available to give critical feedback,
- c) whose feel they would benefit from advice on English language and / or
- d) whose submissions have been rejected previously.

Authors can consider the reviewer feedback and revise their abstract before formally submitting it to the usual peer review process. Reviewers will handle all information in the abstract confidentially.

Please note that integrating the reviewer feedback does not guarantee acceptance.

To request feedback by the end of August, please send your abstract in word format by Monday, 3 August 2026 to [info@ispo-congress.com](mailto:info@ispo-congress.com).

### Author information

During online submission, the following information is required for all authors:

- full name
- affiliation (organisation/institution, city, country)
- email address
- phone number

The submitter will be asked to indicate the presenter. **One of the listed authors must be the presenter. It is recommended to limit the selection to one presenter.**

### Session chairs

Each free paper session is chaired by two session chairs. The SPC may assign presenters as chairs unless during online submission, the submitter indicates that the presenter is not available to chair a session. ISPO does not provide any financial support (such as a registration waiver, accommodation and/or travel support) to session chairs.

### Consent to publication of abstract

During online submission, the submitter is required to consent to publication of the submitted abstract. Abstracts will be published in an abstract book, which will be available on the website of ISPO ([www.ispoint.org](http://www.ispoint.org)).

The submitter is responsible for receiving consent from all authors before completing a submission.

### Conflict of interest disclosure

During online submission, the submitter will be asked to disclose any conflict of interest on behalf of each author. For guidance on conflict of interest statements, please see the [ICMJE recommendations](#). If no conflict exists, please state that 'The author(s) declare(s) that there is no conflict of interest'.

If a conflict of interest does exist, the disclosure must clearly indicate how the conflict will be managed / mitigated in the presentation to avoid undue bias to the presentations. Submissions that do not explain how conflicts will be managed may be rejected. Conflict of interest disclosure may be published as part of the submitted abstract.

### Presenting with Integrity: Artificial Intelligence, Ethics and Conduct Policy

During online submission, the submitter of the abstract will be required to confirm on behalf of all authors that the [ISPO Presenting with Integrity: Artificial Intelligence, Ethics and Conduct Policy](#) was read and understood, and that this submission fully complies with the policy. If there are any issues, then the lead author should contact [info@ispo-congress.com](mailto:info@ispo-congress.com).

### Abstract review

Submissions will be peer reviewed – the review process is double blinded, meaning that author and reviewer information is not shared with either party. Notifications will be distributed by the deadline stated in the section Important dates. All programme decisions are the responsibility of the SPC.

We cordially invite submitters to further contribute to the congress programme development by acting as reviewers for free paper and poster abstracts when invited to do so.

### Presentation information

The title and content presented must align with the title and content submitted in the abstract.

Abstracts accepted for free paper (oral) presentation will be presented during free paper sessions, which are generally scheduled for 75 minutes. This timeframe includes presenter introductions, presentations and audience questions/ discussion. Presenters will be notified of the length of their presentation when the abstract is accepted.

Abstracts accepted for poster presentation will be presented in the exhibit hall (further details on the format to follow).

Please note the presentation rules for abstracts contributing to the 3MT student competition as they are listed in the [Guidelines for the 3MT student competition](#).

Presentations should not be specific to a particular brand of product. However, they may deal with a generic (non-branded) range of products (see section on Conflict of interest disclosure).

Details of the on-site presentation will be communicated to the submitter closer to the congress. The submitter is responsible for ensuring that these details are shared with the presenter(s).

### Prizes

A number of Best Paper and Poster Prizes will be awarded during the World Congress Closing Ceremony on Thursday, 25 March 2027. Top ranking abstracts based on peer review (in the poster and free paper categories) will be considered for prizes. During the congress, a committee of judges will review the selected presentations and make recommendations on the awards. Additionally, the best 3MT student presentation will be awarded. The awarding of prizes is at the discretion of the SPC.

### Contributing to the ISPO 21<sup>st</sup> World Congress presentation repository

To further enhance the availability and accessibility of content presented at the World Congress, ISPO invites presenters to create recordings of their presentations for upload, dissemination and archiving through ISPO's eLearning platform ([ISPOLearn](#)). Details on formatting requirements and submission processes will be available on acceptance notification.

### Questions

If you have any questions regarding the online submission system or your scientific content, please contact the ISPO World Congress team:

Email: [info@ispo-congress.com](mailto:info@ispo-congress.com)

Phone: +49 341 678 -8237 or -8238