

Practice & Research Committee

Tips for Preparing Successful Research Study Report Abstracts

Research Study Report Abstracts should summarize the original research study and must demonstrate clinical significance to physical therapists. Research abstracts should include purpose/background, methods, results, and conclusion sections. Study background should be supported with current references (up to 5) in AMA format.

The abstract will be scored out of 50-points based on the following structure/criteria:

- **Background/Hypothesis/Purpose** – demonstrate the clinical relevance within the scope of physical therapy and identify the gap in knowledge for the research. Explicitly state the study purpose and the hypothesis of the study (include the specific research question).
Background scored 1 to 10 (unacceptable to exceptional) based on above criteria.
- **Methods/Design** – describe study design, data collection procedures, and analytic techniques.
Methods scored 1 to 10 (unacceptable to exceptional) based on the thorough/concise description of the above criteria (and appropriateness of the design based on the research question stated in the background).
- **Research Outcomes** – outcome measures should be clear and well described. The key characteristics of the study population should be described. Must include data in some form (means, statistical results, etc). Interpretation of changes within the context of the MDC and or MCID value should be provided when appropriate. **If data collection and analysis is not completed, you MUST include a detailed plan for the analysis and a projected date for completion.**
Results scored 1 to 10 (unacceptable to exceptional) based on the above criteria.
- **Conclusion/ Clinical Relevance** – should be supported by the study results (be careful not to overstate conclusions from study findings) and include implications to clinical practice or the field of study. Discussion of limitations, strengths, and potential areas for future research encouraged. Abstracts with incomplete data collection and analysis must include statements of projected relevance to clinical practice or the field of study. *Conclusion scored 1 to 10 (unacceptable to exceptional) based on the appropriateness and relevance of the above criteria.*
- **Quality and Professional Presentation** – clarity, coherence, and grammar in writing style. Use of appropriate terminology (including person-first and inclusive terms) and technical language (avoid jargon). Overall presentation including adherence to formatting guidelines.
- **Citations and References - Required.** Must be provided in AMA format (up to 5 references within the last 10 years). *Abstract quality scored 1 to 10 (unacceptable to exceptional) based on the above criteria.*