

Practice & Research Committee

Tips for Preparing Successful Special Interest Study Report Abstracts

Special Interest Study Report Abstracts emphasize unique, innovative concepts developed to meet special needs of physical therapy. Studies should summarize the project and must demonstrate clinical significance to physical therapists. Abstracts should include purpose/background, methods, results, and conclusion sections. Project background should be supported with current references (up to 5) in AMA format. The quality and professionalism of the abstract will be considered in the scoring of submissions. The abstract will be scored out of 50-points based on the following structure/criteria:

- **Purpose/Background** – demonstrate the clinical relevance within the scope of physical therapy and identify the gap in knowledge for the report (examples to consider include current trends in the field, addressing emerging issues, innovative practice, or recent development). Explicitly state the purpose of the special interest report.
Background scored 1 to 10 (unacceptable to exceptional) based on above criteria.
- **Methods/Design** – describe the novelty and innovativeness of the topic, approach, or findings. Consider unique insights, perspectives, or methodologies that distinguish the report from what is currently known/done. *Methods scored 1 to 10 (unacceptable to exceptional) based on the thorough/concise description of the above criteria.*
- **Results/Outcomes** – illustrate depth and thoughtfulness of the content presented (example might include detailed descriptions, analyses, or case studies). Demonstrate credibility and reliability of the information provided (supported by evidence, data, or expert opinions). *Results scored 1 to 10 (unacceptable to exceptional) based on the above criteria.*
- **Conclusion/Clinical Relevance** – include implications to clinical practice (such as recommendations, insights on practice, policy, or research within the special interest area). Provide actionable takeaways for clinicians, organizations, or other stakeholders in the field. *Conclusion scored 1 to 10 (unacceptable to exceptional) based on the appropriateness and relevance of the above criteria.*
- **Quality and 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. *Abstract quality scored 1 to 10 (unacceptable to exceptional) based on the above criteria.*
- **Citations and References Required.** Must be provided in AMA format (up to 5 references within the last 10 years).