Tips for writing a good abstract for the Annual Scientific Meeting

This guidance is adapted by the Scientific Programme Committee from an article by Prof. Kate Seers, Professor of Health Research, Director Royal College of Nursing Research Institute, published in *Pain News* September 2014, Volume 12, Edition 3.

We would like to accept as many high quality posters as we can for the Annual Scientific Meeting. Many delegates really value the discussions that take place and new contacts they make when viewing the posters. All types of high quality research relevant to pain is welcome. Prizes are awarded by the Society for the best poster presentation and we also ask delegates to vote for the `People's Choice' poster of the meeting. At the 2022 ASM we will be trialling electronic posters' which may give opportunities for less standard formats, video etc. High methodological quality and relevance to pain practice remain paramount in the SPC's selection of abstracts for poster or oral presentation. In addition to excellent science, we will also in 2022 have poster categories to reflect the important work undertaken by delegates in Service Evaluation and Audit, key to maintaining high quality services for people with pain, and to translating new research into clinical practice. Case reports may be considered where new understanding of general significance can be drawn.

Tips
•• Provide a concise background that shows why what you are doing is important.
•• Make sure you clearly state the aims of your work.
•• Give a concise description of your main methods, including sample, what you did and your analysis
•• Provide a summary of your main results or findings – it is essential that data are included in the abstract so it is clear what you will be presenting. Phrases such as `analyses are ongoing and data will be presented' will not enable the Scientific Programme Committee to assess the likely quality and impact of your presentation, and abstracts without results or conclusions are likely to be rejected.
•• Conclusions are important and should follow from the information presented. What have you found and what is the importance of your findings?
•• Audits should be well conducted using a recognised audit method and provide new information or knowledge.
•• It can be helpful to get someone else to read your abstract to make sure it is clear to someone who is not already familiar with your work.

When you come to design your poster:
•• Many people will scan your poster and read the aims and conclusion before deciding whether to read more, so the conclusion needs to make sense without having to read the whole poster.
•• Delegates have said it is helpful if you add your email address to the poster.
•• Resist the temptation to fill every space – think about the main message you want to get across. A well designed poster should act as a catalyst for discussion with interested delegates, and may engage delegates who didn't think they were interested!

The Scientific Programme Committee looks forward to reading you abstract submission.