Abstract Preparation and Submission Guide

Use this guide to prepare your abstract and enter it into the online submission form linked on the Research Day website. You may draft in Word, but submit the abstract through the online form.

Deadline and approval

Abstract submissions are due January 15, 2027. Your mentor or principal investigator must approve your abstract before you submit the form. Submissions without mentor or PI approval will be rejected. Questions may be directed to researchday-auburn@auburn.vcom.edu.

Information to prepare

• Designate one presenter. Prepare the presenter's first name, last name, and one email address, plus the name and one email address of the mentor or PI.

• Select the research category: Biomedical, Clinical, Simulation, Education, Community / Public Health, Case Report - Anatomy, or Case Report - Clinical.

• Select the presenter type: Medical Student, Medical Resident/Post Doc, Graduate/Undergraduate Student, or Other.

• Prepare your title in ALL CAPS, with no more than 180 characters.

• Prepare the complete author list in the intended publication order. The form provides entries for up to 15 authors. Enter each author's first and last name without credentials, select the highest credential separately, and provide the institutional affiliation and an additional affiliation if needed.

• For student authors, use their current academic institution, such as VCOM-Auburn. For clinical authors, identify the appropriate hospital or clinical institution. Enter affiliations in the form fields; do not add superscript affiliation numbers to author names.

• For Biomedical abstracts, prepare a MeSH terms and its Unique ID. For case reports, prepare three ICD-10 codes as requested by the form. Follow the resources linked in the form.

Entering the abstract body

Select a heading for each entry, then paste only the corresponding body text into its text field. Do not repeat the title, author list, affiliations, or selected heading in that field.

The form permits a maximum of six text entries, with a limit of 750 characters per entry. Check character counts, including spaces, when drafting. If a section is longer, split it at a natural sentence boundary and select "Continued from previous section" for the next entry. Each continuation uses one of the six available entries.

A research abstract using five headings has room for only one continuation entry. Plan the complete abstract before submitting; do not omit essential findings to make room for unnecessary background.

Writing a Research Project Abstract

Use the following five headings in order. Select each heading from the form's dropdown menu.

Background

Explain why the study was done: what is known, what remains unknown, and what needs to be determined. Make clear why the work is important or novel.

Objective

State the study objective or hypothesis concisely.

Methods

Describe the study population or experimental system, the qualitative or quantitative methods, and the statistical analysis where applicable. Include enough detail to understand what was done. Do not include results here.

Results

Report the main findings, including relevant data. Distinguish completed findings from work that is still underway.

Conclusion

Summarize the main findings and their meaning. Relate them to the objective and keep conclusions supported by the results.

Tips for a clear abstract

- Use a short, descriptive title that communicates the subject and relevance of the study.
- Avoid jargon and excessive abbreviations. Spell out abbreviations on first use unless they are commonly recognized.
- Ask a mentor or colleague who is unfamiliar with the project to identify unclear passages.
- Proofread for spelling, grammar, missing words, and awkward phrasing. Reading aloud can help.
- Confirm the author list and affiliations with your research team and obtain mentor or PI approval before submission.

Choosing headings

The form offers additional headings for different abstract structures, including Aims, Context, Hypothesis, and Problem. Use the structure appropriate to your work in consultation with your mentor.

Research Project Example Submission

Title field

CHARACTERIZING THE STRUCTURE-TO-FUNCTION RELATIONSHIP OF AN ANTISENSE LONG NON-CODING RNA ASSOCIATED WITH THE β-MYOSIN HEAVY CHAIN GENE OF SKELETAL AND CARDIAC MUSCLE

Author fields

Enter author names in the intended order. Select each author's verified credential separately.

Entry 1 Background

Skeletal and heart muscle phenotype and metabolism are subject to physiological regulation. Inactivity of muscle induces abnormal changes in the expression of muscle genes, presenting a serious challenge to musculoskeletal health. At the center of this phenomenon is the motor protein β-myosin heavy chain (β-MHC) encoded by the MYH7 gene. Diminished muscle activity results in a loss of β-MHC that is mediated by the transcriptional repression of MYH7 gene.

Entry 2 Objective

The overall objective of this project is to characterize the MYH7-associated antisense long non-coding RNA (MYH7-AS lncRNA) that regulates MYH7 gene function.

Entry 3 Methods

Structural analysis of MYH7-AS lncRNA was performed by the selective 2'-hydroxyl acylation analyzed by primer extension and mutational profiling (SHAPE-MaP) with single-nucleotide resolution. The MYH7-AS lncRNA was in vitro synthesized, purified, and qualitatively and quantitatively assessed. Folding conditions were developed to force the MYH7-AS lncRNA into the native and homogeneous conformation, optimal PCR conditions were determined, and obtained cDNA libraries were purified and assessed, all requirements for SHAPE-MaP structural probing.

Entry 4 Results

SHAPE-MaP analysis and resolution of the MYH7-AS lncRNA was performed in vitro, and one stem-loop structure predicted to interact with a muscle-specific microRNA (mir-208b) was confirmed at a highly favorable minimum free energy. We next examined MYH7-AS transfected and expressed in L6 myotubes. SHAPE-MaP structural probing analyses are currently underway to compare the in cellulo to the in vitro structure of MYH7-AS.

Entry 5 Conclusion

This work is expected to provide comprehensive insight into the MYH7-AS lncRNA structure and interactome network, which will contribute to an underrepresented body of knowledge regarding lncRNA plasticity as a biological control mechanism.

Writing a Case Report Abstract

Use Introduction, Report of Case, and Discussion as the recommended headings.

Introduction

Describe the context of the case and explain its relevance and importance, typically in one or two sentences.

Report of Case

Present the history, examination, investigations, clinical course, and outcome in a logical sequence. Include details needed to understand the case or support a teaching point. Remove details that do not serve either purpose.

Discussion

Identify one to three lessons from the case and explain their clinical relevance. Keep the discussion focused on those lessons. Use caution when claiming that a case is the first of its kind.

Authors and review

Include all appropriate authors. The attending physician responsible for the patient must be involved in preparing and approving the abstract and included as an author. Confirm the author list with your mentor and clinical team before submission.

Use the student's current academic institution and the appropriate hospital or clinical institution for clinical authors. Enter each author and affiliation separately in the form.

Writing tips

Choose a concise, descriptive title; creativity may help attract interest. Avoid excessive medical jargon and abbreviations. Ask a mentor unfamiliar with the case to review the draft, and proofread carefully.

Planning longer sections

Long case narratives and discussions may require continuation entries. The six-entry maximum applies to the entire abstract, including continuations. The following example shows a shortened case narrative divided into two entries.

Case Report Example Submission

Title field

ACTINOMYCES ACTING OUT: A. EUROPAEUS AS AN EMERGING CAUSE OF NECROTIZING FASCIITIS

Author fields

Enter author names in the intended order. Select each author's verified credential separately.

Entry 1 Introduction

Actinomyces europaeus is a facultatively anaerobic, gram-positive filamentous rod associated with abscesses, decubitus ulcers, and urinary tract infections. This case describes A. europaeus associated with necrotizing fasciitis and highlights challenges in managing a severe polymicrobial infection.

Entry 2 Report of Case

A 60-year-old woman with type 2 diabetes mellitus and hypertension presented with encephalopathy. A decubitus ulcer had developed during hospitalization for COVID-19 11 days earlier. Despite prescribed antibiotics, the wound progressed to a draining abscess with crepitus and black eschars involving the left buttock, labia, medial thigh, and flank. She was hypotensive and tachycardic, with elevated lactate, marked hyperglycemia, and renal dysfunction. Empiric meropenem, clindamycin, and vancomycin were started.

Entry 3 Continued from previous section

Surgical debridement removed skin, subcutaneous tissue, and fascia from the left buttock to the left costal margin. On postoperative day five, deep tissue cultures demonstrated a polymicrobial anaerobic infection with heavy growth of A. europaeus. Antibiotics were narrowed to piperacillin-tazobactam. The patient subsequently developed severe respiratory distress, followed by multisystem organ failure, and died on hospital day 12.

Entry 4 Discussion

The original report emphasizes the slow growth of Actinomyces and variability in antimicrobial susceptibility among species. These features may complicate recognition and treatment of severe polymicrobial infections. The case illustrates the importance of interpreting deep tissue cultures in the clinical context and considering organism-specific susceptibility when evaluating antimicrobial therapy.

Final Review and Submission

Before you submit

• Your mentor or PI has reviewed and approved the abstract.

• One presenter is designated, and presenter and mentor contact information is correct.

• The research category and presenter type are correct.

• The title is in ALL CAPS and contains no more than 180 characters.

• All authors are included in the intended order, with accurate credentials and institutional affiliations.

• Required category-specific information is prepared, including a MeSH term and Unique ID for Biomedical abstracts and the requested ICD-10 codes for case reports.

• Each abstract text entry contains no more than 750 characters, and the complete abstract uses no more than six entries.

• Every entry has the correct selected heading, and continuation text immediately follows the section it continues.

• The abstract has been checked for clarity, completeness, spelling, and grammar.

Review your responses

Use the form's Back button to review responses before submitting. Confirm that the submission is accurate and complete, then submit the form.

For questions, contact researchday-auburn@auburn.vcom.edu.