Abstract Tips and Guidelines:

An abstract is a brief but complete summary of your work, providing enough information to convince the reader that the research/case are interesting, novel and relevant. You want to entice the readers to: 1) accept your work for inclusion into the conference, 2) read your manuscript or 3) visit your poster.

Authors: All authors should have contributed to the intellectual content of the abstract (not just involved in the case or patient care).

Title: Should be informative, precise, accurate, interesting and effective.

Research Abstract:

Background/Introduction: Big picture-problem you are studying.

Objective/Purpose/Rationale: Specific question addressed, or topic discussed and why it is important for the reader to learn more about.

Materials and Methods: Brief description of the methods used, include description of the patient population studied if applicable.

Ex. This was a prospective study utilizing the NCIS database, examining X and Y...

Results and Discussion: Explain the findings of the study and put them into context for the reader.

Conclusion: Main finding (conclusion) of the study. Include future recommendations and/or important implications.

Case Report Abstract:

Introduction: Big picture-problem of your case. Include a sentence about rationale for why this is an important/interesting/novel case.

Case Description: Brief description of the case providing the essential details chronologically. It should include the history, physical examination, investigative studies (labs and tests), and the patients' progress and outcomes.

Discussion/Conclusions: Short analysis of the importance of this case and what your reader should learn from this case.

Tips:

Abstracts should be intelligible to a wide audience
Be concise- long complex writing doesn't imply good science or medicine
Omit needless words
Use an active voice
Avoid medical jargon and abbreviations

Prepared by Laura Bauler PhD, Medical Editor and Writer, Division of Epidemiology and Biostatistics Western Michigan University Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine