

Guidelines for Abstract Submission and Judging Criteria

The National Student Research Conference 2020 hosted by Aga Khan University invites undergraduate students of health related and biological sciences programs to submit research abstracts to present at the conference. Guidelines for abstract submission are as follows:

1) Authors:

Abstracts may have multiple authors. In order to be eligible for submission, the presenter must be an undergraduate student. If the first author is unable to present, another author may present the abstract in their place provided that the presenter:

- (a) is an undergraduate student, and
- (b) is an author on the study

2) Abstracts:

Abstracts must fulfil **all** the following criteria in order to be eligible for submissions:

- Must be no longer than 400 words.
- Must be a completed research study – research proposals or projects that are still in progress will not be considered for presentation.
- Unpublished research is preferred to research projects that have already been published in a journal.
- Must be related to health sciences or biological sciences – research abstracts related to other fields will not be accepted.
- Must be affiliated with a health sciences or biological sciences related program.

3) Supplementary Materials:

Attaching supplementary materials when submitting your abstract is optional.

The abstract may include supplementary materials such as graphs, figures, charts, images etc. provided they fulfil the following criteria:

- A maximum of **2** supplements may be provided.
- Must be compiled into a single PDF document.
- Must be relevant to the scientific content of the abstract
- Must be the **original work** of the authors – supplements which are cited from other research works will not be accepted
- If the abstract content is studying patient data (e.g. case series, prospective/retrospective cohorts etc.) the supplements must **not** include any patient identifiers which could violate their privacy (e.g. patient name, medical record number etc.)

4) Judging Criteria

Abstracts will be judged according to the following criteria:

- a. Title: Abstract titles should be relevant to the content of the abstract.

- b. Objectives: The objectives for the research should clearly outline what the research had set out to achieve.
- c. Methodology: The methodology used in the research must be briefly outlined in the abstract, and any limitations in the methodology should be addressed.
- d. Coherence: The abstracts must be coherent and understandable. (Note: the use of medical and/or scientific jargon is acceptable as long as it is used appropriately and in context of the research)
- e. Knowledge and Impact: The knowledge, expertise and relevance of the research content to our society is an important judging criterion. Abstracts should demonstrate adequate knowledge of the subject matter and produce impactful and relevant data.
- f. Originality: The content of the abstract should strive to be as original as possible. Abstracts which present ideas or research from an angle that has rarely/never been done before will be scored higher than abstracts which are repeating previously or extensively done published research.

Note: Plagiarism in any form is unacceptable to us. If an abstract is found to be using plagiarized data or research, it will be immediately disqualified, and the author banned from future versions of NSRC. All data taken from another source should be clearly cited.

Ali Aahil Noorali

Chair, National Student Research Conference



Humza Thobani

Chair, Scientific Committee

