

MRN RESEARCH DAY: MONDAY 17 JUNE 2019, WELCOME COLLECTION, LONDON ABSTRACT GUIDANCE

The MRN Research Day Conference Organising Committee is inviting original abstracts for submission.

1.1 Abstracts should be submitted in a Word document format via mrn@blf.org.uk
The deadline for abstracts is **9 am Thursday 18 April 2019**.

1.2 For an abstract to be submitted, research work should be original and innovative. Work can be presented prior to the MRN Research Day but **MUST** include new data.

1.3 There are spaces within the programme for oral presentation of abstracts providing they fit into the session themes. The organising committee is therefore particularly keen for abstracts in the following themes to be submitted:

- Mesothelioma models
- Understanding mesothelioma: disease mechanism/disease development
- New technologies for understanding, diagnosing or treating mesothelioma

For the highest quality abstract in each of the above themes, the first author will be invited to present the data to delegates in a short oral session (max 15 minutes). There are 3 spaces in the programme for oral abstract presentation.

1.4 Abstracts outside of themes listed above may be submitted. For all original abstracts not invited for oral presentation but deemed of a suitable standard by the Organising Committee, the first author will be invited to submit a poster for display at the MRN Research Day. There will be a prize for the best poster by an early-career investigator (first author must be early career).

1.5 When you submit your abstract please ensure you:

- Include names of all authors
- Include institutional affiliations of all authors
- Include time since PhD completion for the first author (if applicable)
- Indicate the research category: basic, translational or clinical
- Indicate if the abstract is intended to match one of the session themes:
 - Mesothelioma models
 - Understanding mesothelioma: disease mechanism
 - New technologies for understanding, diagnosing or treating mesothelioma.

1.6 Abstract guidance

- Abstracts will be accepted in English only.
- Abstract must include sections for example: Aims and Objectives, Methods, Results and Conclusion.
- Abstracts should not exceed 500 words in length.
- The abstract title should not exceed 125 characters in length.
- Tables may be included, but each will count as 50 words.
- A maximum of 2 images may be included, each will count as 50 words.
- There is no fee for submitting an abstract.
- There is no limit to the number of co-authors per abstract.
- By submitting an abstract, you confirm that the content of the abstract is free from plagiarism.
- A maximum of two abstracts may be submitted by the same presenting author.
- Ensure the abstract is accurate including the data reported, the methods, tables and figures.
- Use simple sentences.
- Unless they are basic, universally accepted abbreviations, like ARDS or FEV1, acronyms and abbreviations should be spelled out the first time they are used in the abstract.

1.7 Guidance for writing a good abstract

Title The title should be an accurate description of the abstract's contents. It should explain as much as possible about the context and the aims of the study. It should include the scope of the investigation, the study design and the goal. In general, the title should be a description of what was investigated rather than a statement of the results or conclusions.

Authors The list of authors should be restricted to those individuals who carried out the study, conceived it, designed it, gathered the data, analysed the numbers and wrote the abstract. The author who will present the abstract should be listed first. Every listed author should read and approve the abstract before it is submitted.

Main text A good abstract should address the five following questions in the relevant sections:

1. "Why did you start?" Introduction or background

You should summarise, preferably in one sentence, the current knowledge, or state-of-the-art, specifically in relation to the work you are presenting.

2. "What did you try to do?" - Aims and objectives

State the aim of your study, and ideally include a short statement of the study's hypothesis. A legitimate scientific study is not done "to prove that something is

true" but rather "to find out whether it is true." The difference may seem small, but it makes a huge difference. A formal hypothesis shows that you were objective.

3. "What did you do?" - Methods

In an abstract, the description of the methods must be concise, and much of the details of what was done must be omitted. However, in a few short sentences, you can give the reader a good idea of the design of the study, the context in which it was done, and the types of patients or measurements that were included.

4. "What did you find?" - Results

It is important to give the main results of the study, not in subjective terms ("We found device X to be superior to device Y") but also in the form of some real data. You will need to choose which findings to report here: it should be the most important data in your study, and the findings on which your conclusions will be based. Do not include a table or figure unless you need it to show your results.

5. "What does it mean?" - Conclusions

Here, space limitations generally limit you to a single sentence of why you think your findings are important, and their potential implications. Keep your conclusions reasonable and supportable by the findings of your study.