

BTS Winter Meeting: Tips on getting your abstract accepted

Abstracts are invited for the BTS Winter Meeting to be held from 25-27 November 2026.

The deadline for receipt of abstracts is 23.59 on Tuesday 9 June 2026.

One of the key aims of the BTS Winter Meeting is to facilitate the development and dissemination of original respiratory research. As such writing an abstract for the Winter Meeting affords an excellent opportunity for showcasing your research and communicating your findings with your peers and others in the respiratory research community.

The following tips are provided to try and help you ensure that your abstract is successful in being accepted for the BTS Winter Meeting. If you are an early career investigator, or not an established academic researcher, don't forget to consider sharing your abstract with mentors or supervisors, to get additional feedback.

Why write an abstract?

An abstract is a shortened version of an original research paper and can be considered an 'advert' for your paper. An abstract can also be a first chance to present preliminary original research data. It should be seen as setting the foundation for the goal of your research project: dissemination and impact. By following a few simple steps, you can greatly enhance your chances of abstract acceptance.

Getting your abstract accepted

Case reports (a narrative of a single case) and **Audit** (reviewing care against a standard) are **not accepted** as abstracts in the BTS Winter Meeting. Areas of improvement identified because of an audit, which are then tested, resulting in change or improvement as demonstrable original data generation are considered suitable. Please always consider submitting abstracts underpinned by an Audit to the BTS Summer Meeting.

1. **Novelty:** Abstracts should be a shortened version of your research paper. Abstracts presenting novel data usually score higher than those that replicate previous work. All submitted abstracts are anonymously reviewed by expert reviewers, so they will have a good knowledge of the existing literature. When writing an abstract, emphasis on the novel aspects of the data and how this adds to current knowledge are vital.
2. **Salami Slicing:** Avoid dividing your data into multiple abstracts. Your chances of abstract acceptance will be greatly enhanced by submitting a single abstract containing either a hypothesis or testable objective(s).
3. **Dissemination and Impact:** The reviewer scoring system measures dissemination and impact of the submitted original research. This includes, whether the impact of the research is local, national or international and/or where the findings would be expected to be disseminated (impact factor of a journal). It is recognised that abstract submissions may be preliminary and so



not published at the time of abstract submission (or even presentation at the Winter Meeting). A guide of the scoring criteria is below.

4. **Encore abstracts** may be submitted provided they have only been presented at one international meeting previously, e.g. ERS or ATS. The author should indicate this on the abstract submission form.
5. **Give yourself time.** Give yourself plenty of time to write the abstract and to get feedback. A well-written and readable abstract ensures that your data is presented in the best light and enables those reading it to understand the value of your work.

Scoring criteria

- 5 Work that is **world-leading** in terms of originality, significance and rigour and /or is likely to impact clinical care internationally. When complete this could likely be published in a leading international clinical journal. Would be expected to be awarded an oral presentation.
- 4 Work that is **recognised internationally** in terms of originality, significance and rigour and /or may improve clinical care nationally/regionally. When complete this would be publishable in a mainstream journal. Would be expected to be an oral presentation.
- 3 Work that is **recognised at a national level** in terms of its contribution, originality, significance and rigour and /or may impact on clinical care regionally/locally. Should be considered for a poster discussion presentation.
- 2 Work that is **recognised as adequate** in terms of rigour but may lack originality or relevance. This may improve clinical care locally. This will include most single centre audits or small scale surveys. Likely to be considered for a moderated poster presentation.
- 1 Work of a **quality that falls well below** the standard of nationally recognised work; this category will include abstracts without any original data, case reports or poorly conducted audits & surveys. Unlikely to be considered for a poster presentation.
- 0 A score of zero denotes that the abstract has not been marked.

Abstract Instructions

The abstract should be no more than **350 words** and can include one table **or** one figure. The title, text included in a table or figure legend are not included in the 350 word limit.

Title: The title should accurately reflect the content of the abstract and be easy to understand. Avoid abbreviations if not familiar to a general audience.

Authors: The list of authors should be added in the order that the names should appear in the printed abstract should it be accepted, where the first author is expected to be the presenter if accepted. The institution, city and country of each author should be included. All authors listed should approve the final abstract.

NB: In the circumstances that the first author is unable to present the abstract at the Winter Meeting, an alternative presenter must be identified and this communicated to the BTS Office in advance. An alternative presenter of an abstract **MUST BE** a listed co-author.

The main body of the abstract should be structured as follows:

Introduction and Objectives: Briefly summarise the current knowledge or state of the art in the field and set out the aim of the study, including a hypothesis and/or objective(s).

Methods: This should be a concise statement of the methods used including a brief outline of the study design, the context of the study and the type of data that was collected.

Results: Include the most important data in your study and the findings on which your conclusions are based. Include a table or figure only if this is required to show your results.

Conclusions: Outline briefly why these findings are important and describe their potential implications.

The Abstract Book

If your abstract is accepted at the Winter Meeting, the abstract will be printed in the BTS Winter Meeting Programme and Abstract book which is published as a supplement to *Thorax*.

Please note that abstracts will have a very limited amount of copy editing by the *Thorax* production team. This means that:

- Your abstract will be reprinted as it is submitted on the abstract system.
- Abbreviations and definitions will be left as submitted so we would encourage you to spell out abbreviations on first use unless they are very common.
- References will appear as they have been submitted (the full reference will not be added if this is incomplete).
- The table or figure you submit will be reproduced as submitted so please ensure the legend/content is legible and highest quality possible.