

ICN 2009 Abstract Review Process

1. The Scientific Program Committee together with a Panel of Abstract Reviewers will undertake a blind peer-review process to evaluate all submitted abstracts.
2. Each abstract is peer-reviewed by at least two members of the Scientific Program Committee and the Panel of Abstract Reviewers.
3. Each abstract will be reviewed based on the following criteria:

Criteria	Weight
Originality of Study/Research Work	30
Scientific Merit or Importance	20
Quality of Research Design and Data Analysis	20
Conclusions	20
Quality of Presentation	10

Originality: Were novel concepts or approaches used? Does the abstract challenge existing paradigms or develop new methodologies or technologies? If the abstract presents an extension of a replication of previous work, is the new study better than previous ones.

Scientific merit or importance: Does the abstract address an important problem? How was scientific knowledge advanced? What will be the effect of the results on the concepts or methods that drive the field?

Quality of research design and data analysis: Is the study design clearly delineated? Are possible confounding factors discussed and/or controlled for? Are issues of reliability and validity of the measures addressed? Are the statistical analyses appropriate for the study design?

Conclusions: Are conclusions clearly stated? Are the conclusions justified by the data? Are the conclusions correct but overstated for the strength of the study?

Quality of presentation: Is the abstract clearly written and understandable? Are unique abbreviations spelled out clearly the first time they are used?

4. Each abstract then receives an average score. However, if there is any discrepancy on the rates given by both reviewers, external experts will be asked to act as a referee and grade the abstract accordingly.
5. The average scores of the abstract will determine the acceptance of the abstract in the following categories:
 - a. Short Sessions within the Parallel Symposia (Oral Presentation) – verified by the Symposia Chairs
 - b. Free Communication (Oral Presentation)
 - c. Distinguished Posters
 - d. Regular Posters