



Abstract submission regulations and instructions

Regular abstract submission deadline

20 May 2020, 21:00hrs CEST

(CEST = Central European Summer Time)

Late-breaking abstract deadline

17 August 2020, 21:00hrs CEST

(CEST = Central European Summer Time)

Submission methods and deadlines

All abstracts for ESMO 2020, including preliminary versions of those intended for late-breaking abstract status, must be submitted by the deadline of **21:00hrs** Central European Summer Time on **Wednesday, 20 May 2020**.

The deadline for the submission of **finalised late-breaking abstracts** is **21:00hrs** Central European Summer Time (local Swiss time) on **Monday, 17 August 2020**.

Abstract submission is free of charge and must be completed online only via the ESMO website.

Abstracts submitted by e-mail, post or fax will NOT be accepted.

Submission categories

Basic science	Oesophagogastric cancer
Biliary tract cancer, incl. cholangiocarcinoma	Palliative care
Biomarkers (agnostic)	Pancreatic cancer
Breast cancer, early stage	Psycho-oncology
Breast cancer, locally advanced	Public policy
Breast cancer, metastatic	Sarcoma
CNS tumours	SARS-CoV-2 and cancer
Colorectal cancer	SCLC
Developmental therapeutics	Supportive care
Endocrine tumours	Thoracic malignancies, other
Genitourinary tumours, prostate	Thyroid cancer
Genitourinary tumours, non-prostate	Translational research (agnostic)
Gynaecological cancers	Tumour biology and pathology
Haematological malignancies	Miscellaneous
Head and neck cancer, excluding thyroid	*Cancer Nursing Education: Challenges and opportunities
Hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC)	*Cancer Nursing: Digital innovations in health
Investigational immunotherapy	*Cancer Nursing: Leadership
Melanoma and other skin tumours	*Cancer Nursing: Palliative and end-of-life care
Neuroendocrine tumours	*Cancer Nursing: Patient and occupational safety
New diagnostic tools	*Cancer Nursing: Psychosocial care and survivorship
NSCLC, early stage	*Cancer Nursing: SARS-CoV-2 and cancer
NSCLC, locally advanced	*Cancer Nursing: Symptom management
NSCLC, metastatic	*Cancer Nursing: Translating research into practice

*Abstracts may also be submitted to the cancer nursing track. Submissions in these **nine** categories will be reviewed by the European Oncology Nursing Society (EONS) Scientific Committee for selection and presentation in the EONS cancer nursing programme. Unless otherwise stated, submissions in these **nine** cancer nursing categories must follow all regular ESMO 2020 submission regulations and guidelines.

Submission regulations

1. By submitting an abstract intended for presentation at ESMO 2020, **the first author** (= presenter) warrants that the **material has neither been, nor will be, previously published** in any publication in peer review setting **or presented** at a meeting of any other scientific organisation prior to ESMO 2020.

Abstracts containing **updated data** with respect to a previous presentation may, however, be submitted to ESMO 2020. In this case, additional information must be given specifying clearly which new data will be presented, for example final analysis of primary endpoint(s) or intermediate statistical analysis. Authors must at the same time also supply information regarding the prior presentation for identification and comparison purposes, indicating the name of the meeting, year and/or publication number.

Violation of this policy will result in a rejection of the submitted abstract.

Should any similarities to prior presentations or publications exist, these must be explained in a covering letter, citing the ESMO 2020 abstract submission number, title and first author, to the ESMO Scientific Programmes Department by e-mail at programme@esmo.org. Except for exceptional circumstances, abstracts containing previously published material will be rejected.

Encore abstracts will **NOT** be accepted.

2. The first author (= presenter) may be, but does not need to be, an ESMO member; however, only ESMO members in good standing with the society may submit more than one abstract as first and presenting author.

Non-ESMO members may submit and present one abstract only as first and presenting author.

New applications for ESMO membership must be completed online by **4 May 2020** via <https://www.esmo.org/Membership/Join-ESMO> to qualify for membership benefits.

3. With the submission of an abstract, and on behalf of him/herself and all co-authors, the first author (= presenter) undertakes to:

1. Release full copyright to ESMO and give full permission for the abstract, if accepted, to be published in the ESMO 2020 Abstract book in printed and/or electronic format, as well as published online on the ESMO and *Annals of Oncology* websites.
2. Warrant that he/she is an investigator with a substantial involvement in the study presented in the abstract.
3. Accept responsibility for the accuracy and confidentiality (see corresponding paragraph) of the submitted abstract.
4. Confirm that all authors are aware of, and agree to, the content of the abstract and support the data therein; furthermore the first author will be responsible for obtaining, and, upon request, showing proof that all authors have given their permission for the submission of the abstract and content therein as well as for the potential inclusion of the abstract in the official ESMO 2020 Press programme.
5. Make all reasonable efforts to ensure the anonymity of any patient discussed in the abstracts.
6. Be the contact person for all correspondence concerning the abstract and to keep co-authors duly informed about its status.
7. Present his/her abstract in the official ESMO 2020 Congress programme if it is selected for presentation as Proffered Paper (oral presentation), Mini Oral or Poster. The first author may nominate a co-author to present an abstract in his/her place provided that the replacement presenter is also a listed co-author **independent of the sponsor (unless for data generated as mentioned in point 11 below)**. The name of the replacement must be submitted by e-mail to the ESMO Scientific Programmes Department (programme@esmo.org) within forty-eight (48) hours of outcome notification.
8. The maximum number of abstract presentations throughout the ESMO 2020 Congress by the same first and presenting author is TWO, with options as follows:
 - Either **one** Proffered paper (oral) presentation plus **one** of either Mini Oral or Poster
 - Or **two** of either Mini Oral or PosterAny additional Proffered Paper, Mini Oral or Poster must be presented by a listed co-author **independent of the sponsor (unless for data generated as mentioned in point 11 below)**.
9. A co-author employed by the abstract sponsor cannot act as the presenter or corresponding author of any work related to clinical data, study or trial.
10. A co-author employed by a company submitting data generated by the same company from patient material is not allowed to present the data. The presenter must be an independent, practicing physician listed in the abstract author-string.

11. Employees of pharmaceutical and diagnostic companies may submit and present data generated in in-vitro and pre-clinical basic research, excluding translational research issued from clinical trials.
12. Certify that the study reported in the abstract will not be presented as such during ESMO 2020 at any industry-related Satellite symposia prior to its presentation during the official ESMO 2020 programme.
13. Indicate whether he/she agrees to participate in the official ESMO Press programme if the abstract is selected for coverage by ESMO and guarantee he/she is not subject to any restrictions by the institute he/she belongs to or by the scientific journals he/she may have submitted his/her research to.
14. The first author must further confirm his/her presence at the official ESMO Press Conference if selected; however, he/she may nominate a co-author to participate in the ESMO Press programme in his/her place provided that the replacement presenter is also a listed co-author independent of the sponsor who has also made a substantive contribution to the work. The name of the replacement must be submitted by email to the ESMO Press Office (media@esmo.org) within forty-eight (48) hours of Press programme invitation acceptance and must confirm their attendance at the ESMO Press Conference.
15. Declare the name of the legal entity responsible for the governance, coordination and running of the study.
16. Declare how the study detailed in the abstract was funded, for example by a pharmaceutical, biotech or other commercial company or by a Foundation or academic group, and to name the organisation(s) funding the study.
17. Ensure that all authors complete the “declaration of Interest” statement identifying any financial interest in products or processes involved in their activities, related or not, to the work submitted in the abstract. This includes stock ownership, membership on an advisory board or board of directors, corporate-sponsored research, or other substantive relationships such as employment with a pharmaceutical company or any other organisation. Statements exceeding the standard length in the submission system must be advised by the submission date to the ESMO Scientific Programmes Department (programme@esmo.org). Should no valid disclosure statement be provided at submission, authors may, at the discretion of the ESMO 2020 Scientific Committee, be removed from the author string without further recourse to the authors.
18. Guarantee the scientific independence of the author or principle investigator (whichever is going to be the corresponding or presenting author) when presenting his/her data, and confirm that he/she has full control over the text of the submitted abstract, subsequent presentation (slides or poster) and content of the press release prepared by ESMO (if part of the official ESMO Press programme), and that he/she has not been influenced by any third party, including the sponsor of the study **(unless for data generated as mentioned in point 11 above)**.
19. Indicate where applicable the number of the trial protocol (NIH or European equivalent) and the release date (when it was obtained).
20. Ensure that for all studies involving human or animal subjects, permission has been obtained from the relevant regulatory authority and that properly informed consent, where appropriate, has been given.
21. Indicate whether the abstract is submitted in association with EITHER an application for an ESMO Merit Award OR an application for the EONS Novice Research Dissemination Award.
22. Acknowledge any editorial assistance in the writing of the abstract that was provided by a third party, providing the name of the writer and the company who provided this service.

4. Withdrawal of abstracts

If the first author wishes to withdraw his/her abstract from ESMO 2020 after outcome notifications have been made available, he/she must submit a written request **within forty-eight (48) hours** to programme@esmo.org. Any abstract withdrawal requests made after 48 hours cannot be assured of removal from the ESMO 2020 Abstract Book.

5. Correction of accepted abstracts

Corrections to accepted abstracts, including author strings, will be possible if advised in writing to the ESMO Scientific Programmes Department (programme@esmo.org) by **Friday, 31 July 2020**. **No changes will be possible at all after this date** unless requested by ESMO. Once the abstract has been published, no corrigenda will be considered unless the data published in the original abstract is proved to have a relevant and negative impact on the treatment of patients and/or the future of any related research.

6. No-show policy

The abstract's first and presenting author who, without notice, is absent during the session when his/her abstract is presented will be barred from having abstracts accepted for the following ESMO Congress.

Submission instructions

- Each section of the online abstract submission system must be completed. Authors failing to give all information required in the online submission system will not have their abstract considered by the ESMO 2020 Scientific Committee.
- Once each step is completed, the author must go to the 'Preview and Finish' section and click '**Finish Submission**' in order to complete the process. Without clicking this option, the abstract will not be considered as submitted and will not be forwarded to the ESMO 2020 Scientific Committee for consideration.
- Abstracts, with the exception of Trial in Progress (TiP abstracts, see below), should be structured in such a way as to include the following four (4) sections:
 - Background: A short introduction indicating the rationale of the study
 - Methods: A brief description of pertinent methodological procedures
 - Results: A summary of the results of the research
 - Conclusions: A statement of the main conclusions
- The title of the abstract should include significant words that reflect the content of the abstract but not refer to the study results or conclusions. The ESMO 2020 Scientific Committee reserves the right to correct the title format without further recourse to the authors.
- Commercial names may not be used in the title of the abstract. Compounds should be mentioned with the generic name in lower case. Commercial names are admitted in the text, with the ® symbol, and if in brackets following the generic name, i.e. 'generic (Commercial®)'. The ESMO 2020 Scientific Committee reserves the right to substitute commercial names with generic names where necessary without further recourse to the authors.
- The name(s) of the legal entity/entities responsible for the governance, coordination and running of the study detailed in the abstract, and the name(s) of the organisation(s) providing funding must be provided. This information will be published with the abstract.
- Names of cooperative study groups should appear in the title, as they will not be reported in the author index.
- Abbreviations may be used in the title and text of abstracts if they are defined. Terms must be spelt out in full at its first mention and followed with the abbreviation in parentheses. Particular care should be taken to identify complex chemotherapeutic regimens.
- The character limit for all submitted abstracts is set at **2,000**, excluding spaces. This limit includes characters entered in the title, abstract body and table but not the author names and institutions.
- Illustrations and graphs are not permitted. **One brief and clear** table counting for a default of 225 characters is accepted (however the table itself must not be longer than 600 characters). More than one table may not be submitted under the guise of Table 1.1, 1.2 etc.
- The maximum number of authors allowed per abstract is limited to **twenty (20)**. Mailing addresses, academic degrees and professional positions such as Medical Director, CEO, CMO etc. must NOT be mentioned.
- The names of all listed authors will be published in the order provided during submission. Changes may be requested **within forty-eight (48) hours** of outcome notification to programme@esmo.org. Any requests for changes to the author string made after forty-eight (48) hours cannot be guaranteed inclusion in the ESMO 2020 Abstract Book or the online programme.
- Authors must select the appropriate abstract submission category, however, the ESMO 2020 Scientific Committee reserves the right to re-categorise abstracts without further recourse to the authors.
- Authors must select their preferred choice of presentation: Proffered Paper, Mini Oral or Poster; however, the decision of the ESMO 2020 Scientific Committee will be final.
- The use of good English and proof-reading is essential. Once the abstract is submitted, online changes, corrections or rewording will not be possible. The ESMO 2020 Scientific Committee reserves the right to reject abstracts which are presented in poor English or to request an immediate revision by the first author.
- Supplementary data such as manuscripts will not be accepted or forwarded to the ESMO 2020 Scientific Committee.
- Abstracts on **case reports** will be rejected.

Presentation and publication of accepted abstracts

The ESMO 2020 Scientific Committee will select abstracts for presentation during the Congress based on the following possibilities:

- **Presidential Symposium** – Oral presentations by authors of the very best submitted abstracts containing cutting-edge and significant clinical practice-changing studies, followed by expert discussion and perspectives.
- **Proffered Paper** – Oral presentations by authors presenting original data of superior quality, followed by expert discussion and perspectives.
- **Mini Oral** – Short oral presentations by authors presenting data of good quality, followed by expert discussion and perspectives.
- **Poster** – Display sessions for review, discussion and questions. Rotated by category, posters will be displayed for one day of the Congress and the presenting authors must be available for Q&A for one hour to represent their work.

All accepted abstracts, including Late-breaking, will be published online only in the ESMO 2020 Abstract Book, a supplement to the official ESMO journal, *Annals of Oncology*.

Detailed instructions for the preparation of visual presentations and posters will be made available on the ESMO website late August 2020 along with scheduling notices.

Publication schedule for accepted abstracts

1. Abstracts accepted for presentation at ESMO 2020 as Poster (suffix P or TiP) will be published online via the ESMO website at 00:05 CEST on **Monday, 14 September 2020**.
2. Abstracts accepted for presentation at ESMO 2020 as Proffered Paper or Mini Oral will be published online via the ESMO website at 00:05 CEST on **Friday, 18 September 2020**.
3. All **Late-breaking abstracts** will be made public at the start of the official Congress session during which they are presented.
4. Abstracts and Late-breaking abstracts selected for inclusion in the **ESMO Press Programme** will be published online according to a dedicated schedule which will be made available during the second week of September.

Abstracts accepted as: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Poster (suffix 'P')• Poster (suffix 'TiP')• EONS Poster (prefix 'CN')	Monday, 14 September 2020 00:05 Central European Summer Time (CEST) (local Swiss time)
Abstracts accepted as: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Proffered Paper (suffix 'O')• Mini Oral (suffix 'MO')• EONS Proffered Paper (prefix 'CN')	Friday, 18 September 2020 00:05 Central European Summer Time (CEST) (local Swiss time)
Late-breaking abstracts (prefix 'LBA')	At the start of the official Congress session during which they are presented.
Abstracts and LBAs selected for inclusion in the ESMO Press Programme (suffix 'PR')	Published according to a dedicated schedule to be made available during the second week of September 2020

Embargo Policy

Data and information included in accepted abstracts is under embargo until the relevant embargo release date cited in the schedule above.

Data and information beyond what is included in all accepted abstracts, for example full data sets, may only be made public at the start of the official programme session during which the study is presented.

Late-breaking abstracts (LBA)

Late-breaking abstracts may be submitted for high quality, **new** research findings from randomised phase II or phase III trials **with implications for clinical practice or understanding of disease processes**.

Only abstracts for which **no conclusive data are available at the time of the abstract submission deadline of 20 May 2020** will be considered for late-breaking status. The work must **not have been previously published** in any publication in a peer review setting **or presented** at a meeting of any other scientific organisation prior to the ESMO 2020, and a pre-planned analysis must be scheduled between the regular submission deadline of **20 May 2020** and the late-breaking submission deadline of 17 August 2020.

The final late-breaking abstract deadline of **17 August 2020** is under **no circumstances to be considered as an extension of the general submission deadline**.

Late-breaking abstract submission instructions and review process:

- A preliminary abstract indicating the data expected to be available by the late-breaking abstract deadline must be submitted online by **20 May 2020** and the intent to submit a late-breaking abstract check-box must be ticked. The abstract must include the title, first author (with full contact details), objectives, rationale, methodology and anticipated data.
- The abstract length must not exceed the standard abstract length of 2,000 characters, excluding spaces. (Please see details in the general abstract submission instructions and regulations).
- The ESMO 2020 Scientific Committee will review all abstracts indicated as late-breaking and first authors will be advised whether the study has been identified as a potential late-breaking abstract.
- Authors receiving a positive outcome of this first review will be required to submit the entire abstract including author string, final results and conclusions plus any table (if applicable) online by the late-breaking abstract deadline 17 August 2020.
- All late-breaking abstract submissions must follow the standard submission regulations and instructions as outlined above.
- The ESMO 2020 Scientific Committee will re-consider the final abstract to determine whether it will be accepted as a late-breaking abstract for ESMO 2020. A decision will be made between the following three options:
 - **Accepted for Oral presentation:** Accepted late-breaking abstracts will be presented orally in a Proffered Paper session or in a Presidential Symposium.
 - **Accepted for Mini Oral:** Accepted late-breaking abstracts will be presented orally in a Mini Oral session.
 - **Rejected:** Late-breaking abstracts that do not meet the criteria for Proffered Paper or Mini Oral presentation will not be accepted and will not be published.
- The presenters of accepted late-breaking abstracts will receive notification and further instructions by late August 2020.
- Note: If a preliminary abstract marked for late-breaking submission is not updated by the late-breaking abstract deadline, the entire abstract will be automatically rejected.
- Any queries regarding LBA submissions (including a moderate extension beyond the deadline of 17 August) must be sent to the ESMO Scientific Programmes Department to the attention of Kate Kronig or Federica Frigerio (kate.kronig@esmo.org or federica.frigerio@esmo.org). These will be assessed by the ESMO 2020 Scientific Committee on a case-by-case basis.

Trial in progress abstracts

Trial in Progress (TiP) abstracts in all phases of clinical research (phases I to III) may be submitted to ESMO 2020.

It is expected that abstracts submitted as Trial in Progress are ongoing trials that have not reached any protocol-specified endpoints for analysis and consequently will only require the completion of two (2) sections:

- Background
- Trial design

Notes:

- Recruitment must have already begun or have been completed by the abstract submission deadline of **20 May 2020**.
- Abstracts including results or preliminary data will be rejected.
- Trial in Progress abstracts will NOT be considered for Proffered Paper (oral) presentation or Mini Oral.
- Encore TiP abstracts will NOT be accepted.

Abstracts will be reviewed by the ESMO 2020 Scientific Committee and considered on the merits of the scientific and clinical rationale of the trial.

Confidentiality policy

Abstracts submitted to ESMO 2020 are considered confidential by ESMO, the author, co-authors and research sponsors until publicly released in connection with the ESMO Congress. Prior to public release, the author, co-authors, research sponsors, journalists and others may not:

- Make the information public or provide it to others who can make it public
- Publish or present the information or provide it to others who can make it public
- Use the information for trading purposes or provide it to others who can use it for trading purposes

ESMO reserves the right to share material under embargo with journalists on the authorised ESMO media list who have agreed to respect the ESMO embargo policy.

If details or relevant information from the abstract or additional study data are disclosed in advance of public release in connection with ESMO 2020, the abstract will no longer be eligible for inclusion in the ESMO 2020 programme and/or will be subject to removal.

Confidentiality policy exceptions

According to the Confidentiality policy, data and other information in a research abstract is confidential until public release in connection with the ESMO 2020 Congress.

When a publicly traded company is required to disclose data or other information from a confidential abstract in advance of the public release to satisfy requirements of the US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) or a corresponding body in another country, the abstract is still eligible for inclusion in the ESMO 2020 Programme provided that the company submits to the ESMO Scientific Programmes Department (programme@esmo.org) in advance of the release written notification of the requirement to issue information in accordance to SEC regulations.

In the interest of effective peer-reviewed presentation of data at the ESMO Congress, and particularly if the abstract has been tentatively included in the official ESMO 2020 Press Programme, the company is required to get in contact with the ESMO Press Office (media@esmo.org) in advance of the release to notify that a press release regarding an abstract included in the official ESMO 2020 Press Programme will have to be issued in accordance to SEC regulations.

ESMO recommends that the company's press release adheres to the Qualitative Sample Press Release, available via https://www.esmo.org/content/download/102920/1817543/file/Sample_QualitativePR.pdf and:

1. Summarises data cited in the abstract in a qualitative way rather than providing specific quantitative information, including exact figures on the study
2. Avoids interpretations about the implications of the data for clinical practice
3. Notes that full data has been submitted for presentation at the ESMO 2020 Congress.

The ESMO Press Office will review the company's press release to ensure it adheres to the Qualitative Sample Press Release and evaluate if the abstract can still be included in the official ESMO Press programme.

If the press release includes significantly more information than ESMO's recommendations, the abstract's placement in the ESMO Congress is subject to change and can be withdrawn from the official ESMO Press programme.

Copyright

ESMO holds copyright of all abstracts accepted for the ESMO 2020 Congress and therefore abstracts cannot be made public prior to official publication.

ESMO copyright is lifted only if the abstract is not accepted for inclusion in the official ESMO 2020 Congress programme and/or publication in the Congress Abstract Book.

The submission of abstracts accepted for ESMO 2020 to subsequent conferences, organised either by ESMO or third-parties, requires the permission of ESMO as copyright holder. Requests must be addressed to programme@esmo.org.

Commercial data mining of ESMO 2020 published abstracts requires the permission of ESMO and approval must be sought before inception of the project. Queries should be addressed to programme@esmo.org

Financial support

Both ESMO and EONS offer abstract presenters the possibility to apply for subsidised travel and accommodation to facilitate their attendance at the ESMO 2020 Congress. Based on the submission categories and eligibility criteria outlined below, a limited number of ESMO Merit Awards and one EONS Novice Research Dissemination Award are available upon application.

ESMO Merit Awards

A restricted number of Merit Awards to ESMO 2020 are available, upon application, to first author (= presenter) of candidates under the age of 40 who submit abstracts considered deserving of recognition. Selection will be made by the ESMO 2020 Scientific Committee on a competitive basis from among the accepted abstracts.

To apply for an ESMO Merit Award, the following documents must be received by the **ESMO Registration Services Unit** on or **before 20 May 2020**:

1. A letter of introduction by the applicant. Please include the following general information:
 - How relevant are the topics presented during this Congress to your current practice and research?
 - Have you attended any event on a similar topic in the last 3 years?
 - How do you believe your attendance at this Congress will help you improve your knowledge in the field and your professional development?
 - How do you consider that the findings published in your abstract make a relevant contribution to the topics presented during this Congress?
 - Have you recently been awarded an ESMO travel grant? If yes, for which event?
2. A copy of the submitted abstract (the applicant must be the first author and presenter)
3. A readable photocopy of either identity card or passport
4. A short curriculum vitae (maximum 2 pages).

Documentation must be sent by e-mail to travelgrants@esmo.org

The ESMO 2020 organisers will provide the recipients with a subsidised travel ticket, subsidised accommodation and Congress registration.

Merit Award recipients must submit a report detailing the benefits of participating in ESMO 2020 by 23 October 2020.

Incomplete applications will NOT be considered.

Abstract submissions made in the **nine Cancer Nursing categories will NOT be considered by ESMO for an ESMO Merit Award.**

EONS Novice Research Dissemination Award

The award is open to applications from nurses with no experience of presenting their research outside their own country and less than five years' experience of research. As part of the prize, the winner will receive free registration to the ESMO 2020 Congress along with funding towards their travel and accommodation expenses from EONS. The winner will be awarded and invited to briefly present his/her work during the Congress.

To be eligible for the award applicants must:

1. Be a cancer nurse with less than five years' research experience
2. Have no previous experience of presenting their research at an international conference

and must submit an abstract in one of the following categories:

- Cancer Nursing Education: Challenges and opportunities
- Cancer Nursing: Digital innovations in health
- Cancer Nursing: Leadership
- Cancer Nursing: Palliative and end-of-life care
- Cancer Nursing: Patient and occupational safety
- Cancer Nursing: Psychosocial care and survivorship
- **Cancer Nursing: SARS-CoV-2 and cancer**
- Cancer Nursing: Symptom management
- Cancer Nursing: Translating research into practice

ONLY abstract submissions made in the **nine Cancer Nursing categories will be considered by EONS for the EONS Novice Research Dissemination Award.**

More details are available from eons.secretariat@cancernurse.eu with the subject line: ABSTRACT FOR DISSEMINATION AWARD APPLICATION