

# ESMO BREAST CANCER VIRTUAL CONGRESS



## Abstract submission regulations and instructions

### Abstract submission deadline

**Wednesday, 3 February 2021, 21:00 CET**  
(CET = Central European Time / Local Swiss time)

### Late-breaking abstract final submission deadline

**Tuesday, 30 March 2021\*, 21:00 CEST**  
(CEST = Central European Summer Time / Local Swiss time)

## Submission methods and deadlines

All abstracts for ESMO Breast Cancer 2021, including preliminary versions of those intended for late-breaking abstract status, must be submitted by the deadline of **21:00 CET** (Central European Time) on **Wednesday, 3 February 2021**.

The deadline for the submission of finalised late-breaking abstracts is **21:00 CEST** (Central European Summer Time) on **Tuesday, 30 March 2021**.

\* A skeleton indicating the type of data that will be available by the late-breaking abstract deadline must be submitted online by the regular abstract deadline **3 February 2021**.

Abstract submission is free of charge and must be completed online only via the [ESMO Breast Cancer 2021 website](#)

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

## Submission categories

Early breast cancer: Surgery and radiotherapy

Early breast cancer: Neoadjuvant therapy

Early breast cancer: Adjuvant therapy

Metastatic breast cancer

Biomarkers and translational research and precision medicine

Immunotherapy

Supportive care and survivorship

Miscellaneous



# Submission regulations

1. By submitting an abstract intended for presentation at ESMO Breast Cancer 2021, **the first author** (= presenter) warrants that any **material which has been previously published** in any publication in peer-review setting **or presented** at a meeting of any other scientific organisation prior to ESMO Breast Cancer 2021 has been reworded and/or updated.

Abstracts containing **updated data** with respect to a previous presentation may, however, be submitted to Breast Cancer 2021. 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 original 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 abstract submission number, title and first author, to the ESMO Programme Department by e-mail at [programme@esmo.org](mailto:programme@esmo.org). Except for exceptional circumstances, abstracts containing previously published material will be rejected.

Encore abstracts will **NOT** be accepted unless previously presented at the ESMO 2020 Congress. In this case, abstracts may be re-presented by a co-author of the original ESMO 2020 presentation. Authors must supply information regarding the original ESMO 2020 presentation, indicating the name of the presenting author and original abstract publication number.

2. Abstracts submitted after the deadline or containing infractions of the following rules will be rejected and returned without consideration by the ESMO Breast Cancer 2021 Scientific Committee.

3. The first author may, 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 Monday, 11 January 2021 via <https://www.esmo.org/Membership/Join-ESMO> in order to qualify for membership benefits.

**4. 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 the European Society for Medical Oncology (ESMO) and give full permission for the abstract, if accepted, to be published in the ESMO Breast Cancer 2021 Abstract book in electronic format, as well as published online on the ESMO and publisher websites. Accepted abstracts will be published as a supplement of the official ESMO journal, *Annals of Oncology*.
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 Breast Cancer 2021 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 Breast Cancer 2021 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 name of the replacement is submitted by email to the ESMO Scientific Programmes Department ([programme@esmo.org](mailto:programme@esmo.org)) within thirty-six (36) hours of outcome notification. No shared first-authorship is possible: each abstract can have one presenter only.  
Should a presenting author have two abstracts accepted for oral presentation in the same session, the ESMO Breast Cancer 2021 Scientific Committee reserves the right to require a co-author to present one of the two.
8. The maximum number of abstract presentations throughout the ESMO Breast Cancer 2021 Congress by the same first and presenting author is TWO, with options as follows:
  - o Either **one** Proffered paper (oral) presentation plus **one** of either Mini oral or Poster
  - o Or **two** of either Mini Oral or Poster

Any 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 10 below).**



## Submission regulations, cont.

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. 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.
11. Certify that the study reported in the abstract will not be presented as such during the Congress at any industry-related Satellite symposia prior to its presentation during the official ESMO Breast Cancer 2021 Programme.
12. 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.
13. 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 e-mail to the ESMO Press Office ([media@esmo.org](mailto:media@esmo.org)) within thirty-six (36) hours of Press Programme invitation acceptance and must confirm their attendance at the ESMO Press Conference.
14. Declare the name of the legal entity responsible for the governance, coordination and running of the study.
15. 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.
16. 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. Should no valid disclosure statement be provided at submission, or in the case of statements exceeding the regulation length not be advised by the submission date to [programme@esmo.org](mailto:programme@esmo.org), the author(s) in question may, at the discretion of the ESMO Breast Cancer 2021 Scientific Committee be removed from the author string without further recourse to the authors.
17. 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.
18. Indicate where applicable the number of the trial protocol (NIH or European equivalent) and the release date (when it was obtained).
19. 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.
20. Indicate whether the abstract is submitted in association with an application for a Registration Grant.
21. 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.

### 5. Withdrawal of abstracts

If the first author wishes to withdraw his/her abstract from ESMO Breast Cancer 2021 after outcome notifications have been made available, he/she must submit a written request within thirty-six (36) hours to [programme@esmo.org](mailto:programme@esmo.org). Any abstract withdrawal requests made after 36 hours cannot be assured of removal from the ESMO Breast Cancer 2021 Abstract Book.

### 6. Correction of published abstracts

Corrections to accepted abstracts will be possible if advised in writing to ESMO at [programme@esmo.org](mailto:programme@esmo.org) within thirty-six (36) hours of outcome notification. After this time, amendments to the abstract cannot be guaranteed and 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.

### 7. 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 two (2) ESMO Breast Cancer Congresses.



## 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 Breast Cancer 2021 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 Breast Cancer 2021 Scientific Committee for consideration.
- Abstracts should be structured in such a way as to include the following four (4) sections:
  - Background: An introductory sentence 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.
- 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 Breast Cancer 2021 Scientific Committee reserves the right to substitute commercial names with generic names where necessary without further recourse to the authors.
- 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 their 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 fields (default of 225 characters per table) but not the author names and institutions.
- Illustrations and graphs are not permitted. One brief and clear table is accepted.
- 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.
- Authors must select the appropriate abstract submission category, however, the ESMO Breast Cancer 2021 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 Breast Cancer 2021 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 Breast Cancer 2021 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 Breast Cancer 2021 Scientific Committee.
- Abstracts on case reports will be rejected.



## Presentation and publication of accepted abstracts

The ESMO Breast Cancer 2021 Scientific Committee will select abstracts for presentation during the Congress and determine the format of the presentations from the following possibilities:

- **Proffered Paper** – Full oral presentations by authors presenting original data of superior quality, followed by expert discussion and perspectives.
- **Mini Oral** – Short presentation by the authors with comment and interactive audience discussion led by an invited expert.
- **Poster** – An important method for communicating details of scientific research, posters will be on display for the duration of the Congress.

All accepted abstracts will be published online in the ESMO Breast Cancer 2021 Abstract Book.

Detailed instructions for the preparation of visual presentations and posters will be made available on the ESMO Breast Cancer 2021 website <http://esmo.org/Conferences/ESMO-Breast-Cancer-2021/Abstracts> along with scheduling notices.

## Publication schedule of accepted abstracts

1. Abstracts accepted for presentation during ESMO Breast Cancer 2021 (Proffered Paper, Mini Oral and Poster) and for publication in the ESMO Breast Cancer 2021 Abstract Book, will be published online on the ESMO Breast Cancer 2021 website on **Monday, 3 May 2021**.
2. **Late-breaking abstracts** (LBA) accepted for presentation during ESMO Breast Cancer 2021 will be made public on the day of presentation during the official ESMO Breast Cancer 2021 Programme.
3. Abstracts and LBAs selected for the official **ESMO Breast Cancer 2021 Press Programme** will be available 10 days before the Congress.

Abstracts accepted as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Proffered Paper</b> (suffix 'O')</li><li>• <b>Mini Oral</b> (suffix 'O')</li><li>• <b>Poster</b> (suffix 'P')</li></ul>	<b>3 May 2021, 12:00 Central European Summer Time (CEST).</b>
<b>Late-breaking abstracts</b> (prefix 'LBA')	At the start of the official Congress session during which they are presented.
<b>Abstracts and LBAs</b> selected for the official <b>ESMO Press Programme</b> (additional suffix 'PR')	ESMO Press Programme and related abstract publication schedule, will be available 10 days before the Congress.

## 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

Late-breaking abstracts may be submitted for high quality, new research findings with implications for clinical practice or understanding of disease processes. 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 ESMO Breast Cancer 2021.

Only abstracts for which **no conclusive data are available at the time of the abstract submission deadline of 3 February 2021** will be considered for late-breaking status.

The final late-breaking abstract deadline of **30 March 2021** 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 type of data that will be available by the late-breaking abstract deadline must be submitted online by **3 February 2021** 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, methods and anticipated data. Please note that 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 Breast Cancer 2021 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 of **30 March 2021**.
- All late-breaking abstract submissions must follow the standard submission regulations and instructions as outlined above.
- The ESMO Breast Cancer 2021 Scientific Committee will re-consider the final abstract to determine whether it will be accepted as a late-breaking abstract for ESMO Breast Cancer 2021. A decision will be made between the following three options:
  - **Accepted for full Oral** presentation during a Proffered Paper session.
  - **Accepted for short Oral** presentation during a Mini Oral session.
  - **Rejected:** Late-breaking submitted abstracts that do not meet the criteria for either Oral 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 mid-April 2021.
- 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.
- Accepted late-breaking abstracts will be published online only in the ESMO Breast Cancer 2021 Abstract Book, as a supplement of the official ESMO journal, *Annals of Oncology*.

## Trial in Progress abstracts

Trial in Progress (TiP) abstracts in all phases of clinical research (phases I to III) may be submitted to ESMO Breast Cancer 2021.

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 3 February 2021.
- Abstracts including results or preliminary data will be rejected.
- Authors of 'encore' TiP abstract submissions must supply information regarding the original presentation, indicating the name of the meeting and publication number. The first author will be responsible for obtaining, and, upon request, showing proof that written permission has been obtained from the copyright holder of the original abstract publication(s).
- Trial in Progress abstracts will be accepted for Poster outcome only.

Abstracts will be reviewed by the ESMO Breast Cancer 2021 Scientific Committee and considered on the merits of the scientific and clinical rationale of the trial.



# Confidentiality policy

Abstracts submitted to ESMO Breast Cancer 2021 are considered confidential by the organisers, the author, co-authors and research sponsors until publicly released in connection with ESMO Breast Cancer 2021. 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 (e.g. press)
- 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 provide its press releases a few days before public release to a selected list of journalists who have previously agreed in writing to respect the embargo policy of ESMO Breast Cancer.

If details or relevant information from the abstract or additional study data are disclosed in advance of public release in connection with ESMO Breast Cancer 2021, the abstract will no longer be eligible for inclusion in the ESMO Breast Cancer 2021 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 ESMO Breast Cancer 2021.

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 Breast Cancer 2021 Programme provided that the company submits to the ESMO Media department ([media@esmo.org](mailto:media@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 ESMO Breast Cancer 2021, and particularly if the abstract has been tentatively included in the official ESMO Breast Cancer 2021 Press Programme, the company is required to get in contact with the ESMO Breast Cancer 2021 Press Office in advance of the release to notify that a press release regarding an abstract included in the official ESMO Breast Cancer 2021 Press Programme ([media@esmo.org](mailto:media@esmo.org)) 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](#) (provided by the ESMO Press Office) and:

1. Summarizes 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 ESMO Breast Cancer 2021.

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 Breast Cancer 2021 Press Programme.

If the press release includes significantly more information than ESMO's recommendations, the abstract's placement in the ESMO Breast Cancer 2021 is subject to change and can be withdrawn from the official ESMO Breast Cancer 2021 Press Programme.



## Registration Grants

A restricted number of Registration Grants to ESMO Breast Cancer 2021 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 Breast Cancer 2021 Scientific Committee on a competitive basis from among the accepted abstracts.

To apply for a Registration Grant, the following documents must be provided:

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 Merit Awards/ Travel Grant or Registration 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).

ESMO will provide the recipients with Congress registration.

Registration Grant recipients must submit a report detailing the benefits of participating in ESMO Breast Cancer 2021. More information will be sent once Registration Grant recipient will be selected.

**Incomplete applications will not be considered.**

