

Abstract submission regulations and instructions

Regular abstract submission deadline

29 September 2021, 21:00hrs CEST

(CEST = Central European Summer Time / Local Swiss time)

Late-breaking abstract deadline

3 November 2021, 21:00hrs CET

(CET = Central European Time / Local Swiss time)

Submission methods and deadlines

All abstracts for the ESMO Immuno-Oncology Congress 2021, including preliminary versions of those intended for late-breaking abstract status, must be submitted by the deadline of **21:00hrs CEST on Wednesday, 29 September 2021**.

The deadline for the submission of **finalised late-breaking abstracts** is **21:00hrs CET on Wednesday, 3 November 2021**.

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

- Biomarker development
- Tumour biology and tumour microenvironment
- Cell therapy immune engineering
- Therapeutic development
- Clinical practice
- Miscellaneous

Submission regulations

1. By submitting an abstract intended for presentation at ESMO Immuno-Oncology Congress 2021, **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 Immuno-Oncology Congress 2021.

Encore abstracts will **NOT** be accepted. However, abstracts containing **updated data** with respect to a previous presentation may, however, be submitted to ESMO Immuno-Oncology Congress 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 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 Immuno-Oncology Congress 2021 abstract submission number, title and first author, to the ESMO Scientific Programmes Department (programme@esmo.org).

Except for exceptional circumstances, abstracts containing previously published material will be rejected.

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

3. 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 **21 September 2021** 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 ESMO and give full permission for the abstract, if accepted, to be published in ESMO Immuno-Oncology Congress 2021 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 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 Immuno-Oncology Congress 2021 programme if selected for presentation as Proffered Paper, 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 thirty-six (36) hours of outcome notification.
8. The maximum number of abstract presentations throughout ESMO Immuno-Oncology Congress 2021 by the same first and presenting author is **two (2)**, 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. An author employed by the abstract sponsor cannot act as the presenter or corresponding author of any work related to clinical data. Clinical data are defined as data/parameters of clinical relevance captured in observational or interventional clinical studies, registries and real-world databases. This restriction also applies to literature-based systematic reviews or meta-analysis of clinical data. The presenter must be an independent, practicing physician or independent investigator listed in the abstract author string.
10. An author employed by a company submitting clinical or translational research data generated by the same company is not allowed to present the data. The presenter must be an independent, practicing physician or independent investigator listed in the abstract author-string.
11. Employees of pharmaceutical, diagnostic or artificial intelligence companies may submit and present data generated in in-vitro and pre-clinical research, **excluding:** translational research, gene expression sets from databases of clinical data series and artificial intelligence-enabled analyses or products from clinical data series. The latter must be presented by an independent, practicing physician or independent investigator listed in the abstract author-string.
12. Certify that the study reported in the abstract will not be presented as such during ESMO Immuno-Oncology Congress 2021 at any industry-related satellite symposia prior to its presentation during the official ESMO Immuno-Oncology Congress 2021 official 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 thirty-six (36) 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 (programmes@esmo.org). Should no valid disclosure statement be provided at submission, authors may, at the discretion of the ESMO Immuno-Oncology Congress 2021 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 an application for a Travel Grant.
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.

5. Withdrawal of abstracts

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

6. Correction of published abstracts

Corrections to accepted abstracts will be possible if advised in writing to the ESMO Scientific Programmes Department (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 ESMO Immuno-Oncology 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 Immuno-Oncology Congress 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 Immuno-Oncology Congress 2021 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 Immuno-Oncology Congress 2021 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 Immuno-Oncology Congress 2021 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, excluding spaces). 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 thirty-six (36) hours** of outcome notification to programme@esmo.org. Any requests for changes to the author string made after thirty-six (36) hours cannot be guaranteed inclusion in ESMO Immuno-Oncology Congress 2021 Abstract Book or online programme.
- Authors must select the appropriate abstract submission category, however, the ESMO Immuno-Oncology Congress 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 Immuno-Oncology Congress 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 Immuno-Oncology Congress 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 Immuno-Oncology Congress 2021 Scientific Committee.
- Abstracts on case reports will be rejected.

Presentation of abstracts accepted

The ESMO Immuno-Oncology Congress 2021 Scientific Committee will select abstracts for presentation during the Congress based on the following possibilities:

- **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. 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 Immuno-Oncology Congress 2021 Abstract Book, a supplement to the official ESMO journal, Annals of Oncology.

Detailed instructions for the preparation of presentations and posters will be made available on the ESMO website by end October 2021 along with scheduling notices.

Publication schedule for accepted abstracts

1. Abstracts accepted for presentation at ESMO Immuno-Oncology Congress 2021 as Proffered Paper, Mini Oral and Poster will be published online on the ESMO website at **12:00 CET on Thursday, 2 December 2021**.
2. **Late-breaking abstracts** will be made public at the start of the official Congress session during which they are presented.
3. The Publication schedule of abstracts and Late-breaking abstracts selected for inclusion in the ESMO Press programme will be available 10 days before the Congress.

Abstracts accepted as: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Proffered Paper or Mini Oral (suffix 'O')• Poster (suffix 'P')	Thursday, 2 December 2021 12:00 Central European Time (CET)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Late-breaking abstracts (prefix 'LBA')	At the start of the official Congress session during which they are presented.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Abstracts selected for ESMO Press programme (additional suffix '_PR')	ESMO Press programme 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 (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 **29 September 2021** 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 ESMO Immuno-Oncology Congress 2021, and a pre-planned analysis must be scheduled between the regular submission deadline of 29 September 2021 and the late-breaking submission deadline of 3 November 2021.

The final late-breaking abstract deadline of **3 November 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 data expected to be available by the late-breaking abstract deadline must be submitted online by 29 September 2021 and the intent to submit a late-breaking abstract checkbox 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 Immuno-Oncology Congress 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, results and conclusions plus any table (if applicable) online by the late-breaking abstract deadline of 3 November 2021.
- All late-breaking abstract submissions must follow the standard submission regulations and instructions as outlined above.
- The ESMO Immuno-Oncology Congress 2021 Scientific Committee will re-consider the final abstract to determine whether it will be accepted as a late-breaking abstract for ESMO Immuno-Oncology Congress 2021. A decision will be made between the following three options:
 - **Accepted for Proffered Paper**, to be presented orally in a Proffered Paper session.
 - **Accepted for Mini Oral**, to be presented orally in a Mini Oral session.
 - **Rejected**: Submitted 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 end November 2021.
- If a preliminary abstract marked for late-breaking submission is not updated or finalised by the late-breaking abstract deadline, the entire abstract will be automatically rejected.

Trial in progress abstracts

Trial in Progress (TiP) abstracts in all phases of clinical research (phases I to III) may be submitted to the ESMO Immuno-Oncology Congress 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 29 September 2021.
- 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 be rejected.

Trial in Progress (TiP) abstracts will be reviewed by the ESMO Immuno-Oncology Congress 2021 Scientific Committee and considered on the merits of the scientific and clinical rationale of the trial.

Confidentiality policy

Abstracts submitted to ESMO Immuno-Oncology Congress 2021 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 Immuno-Oncology Congress 2021, the abstract will no longer be eligible for inclusion in ESMO Immuno-Oncology Congress 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 Immuno-Oncology Congress 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 ESMO Immuno-Oncology Congress 2021 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 ESMO Immuno-Oncology Congress 2021 Congress, and particularly if the abstract has been tentatively included in the official ESMO 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 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 [here](#) 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 ESMO Immuno-Oncology Congress 2021 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 ESMO Immuno-Oncology Congress 2021 is subject to change and can be withdrawn from the official ESMO Press programme.

Copyright

ESMO holds copyright of all abstracts accepted for ESMO Immuno-Oncology 2021 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 Immuno-Oncology 2021 Congress programme and/or publication in the Congress Abstract Book.

The submission of abstracts accepted for ESMO Immuno-Oncology Congress 2021 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 Immuno-Oncology 2021 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.

Travel Grants

A restricted number of travel grants to the ESMO Immuno-Oncology Congress 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 Immuno-Oncology Congress 2021 Scientific Committee on a competitive basis from among the accepted abstracts.

The application for an ESMO Travel Grant must be completed during the abstract submission process. Applicants will be required to reply to the following questions:

- How relevant to your current practice are the topics presented at this Congress?
- Have you attended any event on a similar topic in the last 3 years?
- How will attendance at this Congress help with your professional development?
- How can your abstract contribute to the topics covered at this Congress?
- Have you recently been awarded an ESMO Award/Travel Grant? If yes, for which event?

And to provide the following documents:

- A copy of the submitted abstract (NOTE: The applicant must be the first and presenting author)
- A readable photocopy of either identity card or passport
- A short curriculum vitae (max. 2 pages)

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

Only abstract submissions made in the ESMO categories will be considered for an ESMO Travel Grant.

Travel grant recipients must submit a report detailing the benefits of participating in ESMO Immuno-Oncology Congress 2021 by 15 January 2022 to travelgrants@esmo.org.

Incomplete applications will not be considered.