

# Abstract submission regulations and instructions

**Regular abstract submission deadline**  
**10 May 2023, 21:00hrs CEST**

(CEST = Central European Summer Time)

**Late-breaking abstract deadline**  
**14 September 2023, 21:00hrs CEST**

(CEST = Central European Summer Time)

All abstracts for the ESMO Congress 2023, including preliminary versions of those intended for late-breaking abstract status, must be submitted by the deadline of **21:00hrs** Central European Summer Time (CEST) on **Wednesday, 10 May 2023**.

The deadline for the submission of finalised late-breaking abstracts is 21:00hrs CEST on **Thursday, 14 September 2023**.

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	NSCLC, metastatic
Biliary tract cancer, incl. cholangiocarcinoma	Oesophagogastric cancer
Biomarkers (agnostic)	Palliative care
Breast cancer, early stage	Pancreatic cancer
Breast cancer, locally advanced	Policy and preventive strategies
Breast cancer, metastatic	Prostate cancer
CNS tumours	Psycho-oncology
Colorectal cancer	Renal cancer
Developmental therapeutics	Sarcoma
Endocrine tumours	SCLC
Germ cell (testicular) cancer and penile cancer	Supportive care
Gynaecological cancers	Thoracic malignancies, other
Haematological malignancies	Thyroid cancer
Head and neck cancer, excluding thyroid	Translational research (agnostic)
Hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC)	Tumour biology and pathology
Investigational immunotherapy	Urothelial cancer
Melanoma and other skin tumours	*Cancer nursing: eHealth and digital innovations
Miscellaneous	*Cancer nursing: Health promotion, prevention and screening
Neuroendocrine tumours	*Cancer nursing: Supportive care
New diagnostic tools	*Cancer nursing: Symptom management
NSCLC, early stage	*Cancer nursing: Palliative and end-of-life care
NSCLC, locally advanced	*Cancer nursing: Workforce and educational issues in cancer nursing

\*Abstracts may also be submitted to the Cancer nursing track. Submissions in these 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 the Cancer nursing categories must follow all regular ESMO Congress 2023 submission regulations and guidelines.

## Submission regulations

**1.** By submitting an abstract intended for presentation at the ESMO Congress 2023, 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 the ESMO Congress 2023.

Abstracts containing **updated data** with respect to a previous presentation may, however, be submitted to the ESMO Congress 2023. 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.

Encore abstracts are not accepted unless originating from the ESMO Virtual Plenary series.

**2.** The first author (= presenter) may be, but does not need to be, an ESMO member or an EONS member. An ESMO or EONS member in good standing may submit more than one abstract as first author, but present a maximum of two abstracts. See details below in point 3.8.

A non-ESMO or non-EONS member may submit and present one abstract only as first and presenting author.

ESMO membership must be active by **Wednesday, 26 April 2023**. Please visit the [ESMO website](#) to check eligibility criteria and benefits, and to complete the Membership application.

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

- 3.1. Release full copyright to ESMO and give full permission for the abstract, if accepted, to be published in the ESMO Congress 2023 Abstract book in printed and/or electronic format, as well as published online on the ESMO and *Annals of Oncology* websites.
- 3.2. Warrant that he/she is an investigator with a substantial involvement in the study presented in the abstract.
- 3.3. Accept responsibility for the accuracy and confidentiality (see corresponding paragraph) of the submitted abstract.
- 3.4. Confirm that all authors and sponsors 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 and sponsors 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 communication activities.
- 3.5. Make all reasonable efforts to ensure the anonymity of any patient discussed in the abstracts.
- 3.6. Be the contact person for all correspondence concerning the abstract and to keep co-authors duly informed about its status.
- 3.7. Present his/her abstract in the official ESMO Congress 2023 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 3.9 below). The name of the replacement must be submitted by e-mail to the ESMO Scientific Programmes Department ([programme@esmo.org](mailto:programme@esmo.org)) within forty-eight (48) hours of outcome notification.
- 3.8. The maximum number of abstract presentations throughout the ESMO Congress 2023 by the same first and presenting author is 2, with options as follows:
  - 1 Proffered Paper (oral) plus 1 Mini Oral
  - 1 Proffered Paper (oral) plus 1 Poster
  - 2 Mini Orals
  - 1 Mini Oral plus 1 Poster
  - 2 Posters

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 3.9).

- 3.9. An author employed by the abstract sponsor or by a company (including pharmaceutical, diagnostic, data or AI companies) cannot act as the presenter or corresponding author of any work related to clinical or translational data, defined as data/parameters captured in interventional clinical studies (phase I-IV) and observational or real-world data series, involving patients. The presenter must be an independent, practising physician or independent investigator listed in the abstract author string. Authors employed by the sponsor or a company are allowed to present preclinical data. When the presenting

investigator represents an independent entity contracted by the sponsor, this should be disclosed in the abstract submission process.

- 3.10. Certify that the study reported in the abstract will not be presented as such during the ESMO Congress 2023 at any industry-related Satellite symposia prior to its presentation during the official ESMO Congress 2023 programme.
  - 3.11. Indicate whether he/she agrees to participate in the official ESMO communication activities 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.
  - 3.12. The first author must further confirm his/her presence in the official ESMO communication activities if selected; however, he/she may nominate a co-author to participate in the ESMO communication activities 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 ([pressoffice@esmo.org](mailto:pressoffice@esmo.org)) within forty-eight (48) hours of invitation acceptance and must confirm their attendance at the ESMO communication activities.
  - 3.13. Declare the name of the legal entity responsible for the governance, coordination and running of the study.
  - 3.14. 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.
  - 3.15. Ensure that all authors complete the “Declaration of Interest” statement identifying any financial/non-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. Should no valid disclosure statement be provided at submission, authors may, at the discretion of the ESMO Congress 2023 Scientific Committee, be removed from the author string without further recourse to the authors.
  - 3.16. Guarantee the scientific independence of the author or principle investigator (whichever is going to be the 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 communication activities), 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 3.9 above).
  - 3.17. Indicate where applicable the number of the trial protocol (NIH or European equivalent) and the release date (when it was obtained).
  - 3.18. 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.
  - 3.19. Indicate whether the abstract is submitted in association with either an application for an ESMO Merit Travel Grant or an EONS Novice Research Dissemination Award (NRDA).
  - 3.20. 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. If the first author wishes to withdraw his/her abstract from the ESMO Congress 2023 after outcome notifications have been made available, he/she must submit a written request **within forty-eight (48) hours** to [programme@esmo.org](mailto:programme@esmo.org). Any withdrawal requests made after 48 hours cannot be assured of removal from the ESMO Congress 2023 Abstract Book.
5. Corrections to accepted abstracts, including author strings, will be possible if advised in writing to the ESMO Scientific Programmes Department ([programme@esmo.org](mailto:programme@esmo.org)) by **Thursday, 31 August 2023**.  
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. 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 Congress 2023 Scientific Committee.

7. 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 Congress 2023 Scientific Committee for consideration.
8. 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
9. 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 Congress 2023 Scientific Committee reserves the right to correct the title format without further recourse to the authors.
10. 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 Congress 2023 Scientific Committee reserves the right to substitute commercial names with generic names where necessary without further recourse to the authors.
11. 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.
12. Abbreviations may be used in the title and text of abstracts if they are defined. Terms must be spelt out in full at first mention and followed with the abbreviation in parentheses. Particular care should be taken to identify complex chemotherapeutic regimens.
13. 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.
14. 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.
15. 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.
16. 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](mailto:programme@esmo.org). Any requests for changes to the author string made after forty-eight (48) hours cannot be guaranteed inclusion in the ESMO Congress 2023 Abstract Book or the online programme.
17. Authors must select the appropriate abstract submission category, however, the ESMO Congress 2023 Scientific Committee reserves the right to re-categorise abstracts without further recourse to the authors.
18. Authors must select their preferred choice of presentation: Proffered Paper, Mini Oral or Poster; however, the decision of the ESMO Congress 2023 Scientific Committee will be final.
19. 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 Congress 2023 Scientific Committee reserves the right to reject abstracts which are presented in poor English or to request an immediate revision by the first author.
20. Supplementary data such as manuscripts will not be accepted or forwarded to the ESMO Congress 2023 Scientific Committee.
21. Abstracts on case reports will be rejected.

## Presentation of accepted abstracts

The ESMO Congress 2023 Scientific Committee will select abstracts for presentation during the Congress based on the following possibilities:

- **Presidential Symposium** – Oral presentations by authors presenting 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 session for review, discussion and questions. The presenting authors must be available for Q&A to represent their work.

All accepted abstracts, including late-breaking abstracts, will be published online only in the ESMO Congress 2023 Abstract Book, a supplement to the official ESMO journal, *Annals of Oncology*.

## Publication schedule for accepted abstracts

1. All **regular** abstracts accepted for presentation at the ESMO Congress 2023 as Proffered Paper (suffix O), Mini Oral (suffix MO), Poster (suffix P or TiP) will be published online via the ESMO website at 00:05 CEST on **Monday, 16 October 2023**.
2. All **Late-breaking abstracts** accepted for presentation at the ESMO Congress 2023 (prefix LBA) will be published online via the ESMO website at 00:05 CEST on **Thursday, 19 October 2023**.
3. Abstracts selected for official ESMO communication activities may be subject to a dedicated embargo, and details will be made available two weeks prior to the congress.

## 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 10 May 2023** 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 Congress 2023, and a pre-planned analysis must be scheduled between the regular submission deadline of 10 May 2023 and the late-breaking submission deadline of 14 September 2023.

The final late-breaking abstract deadline of 14 September 2023 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 10 May 2023 as an “intent to submit a late-breaking abstract”. The preliminary abstract must include the title, first author with full contact details and Declaration of Interest, background, methods, expected results and expected conclusions.
- 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 Congress 2023 Scientific Committee will review the “intent to submit late-breaking abstracts” and will determine if they can be identified as potential late-breaking abstracts.
- First authors receiving a positive outcome of this review will be required to submit online the entire abstract, including final author string, results and conclusions plus any table (if applicable) by the late-breaking abstract deadline.
- All late-breaking abstract submissions must follow the standard submission regulations and instructions as outlined above.

- The ESMO Congress 2023 Scientific Committee will re-consider the final abstract to determine whether it will be accepted as a late-breaking abstract for ESMO Congress 2023. A decision will be made between the following three options:
  - **Oral presentation:** Oral presentations by authors presenting original data of superior quality, presented in a Proffered Paper session or Presidential Symposium.
  - **Mini Oral:** Short oral presentations by authors presenting original data of good quality, presented 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 for presentation and will not be published.
- Presenters of accepted late-breaking abstracts will receive notification and further instructions by end September 2023.
- 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 14 September) must be sent to the ESMO Scientific Programmes Department to the attention of Kate Kronig and Federica Frigerio ([kate.kronig@esmo.org](mailto:kate.kronig@esmo.org) and [federica.frigerio@esmo.org](mailto:federica.frigerio@esmo.org)). These will be assessed by the ESMO Congress 2023 Scientific Committee on a case-by-case basis.

## Trials in progress

Trial in Progress (TiP) abstracts in all phases of clinical research (phases I to III) may be submitted to the ESMO Congress 2023.

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 10 May 2023.
- Abstracts including results or preliminary data will be rejected.
- Trial in Progress abstracts can be accepted for Poster presentation only.
- Encore TiP abstracts will not be accepted.

Abstracts will be reviewed by the ESMO Congress 2023 Scientific Committee and considered on the merits of the scientific and clinical rationale of the trial.

## Embargo and Confidentiality policy

Data and information included in the accepted abstracts are under embargo until the relevant embargo release date cited in the “Publication schedule for accepted abstracts”.

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.

Abstracts accepted for presentation at the ESMO Congress 2023 must be considered confidential by the author, co-authors, institute(s), research sponsor(s) and ESMO until publicly released in connection with the ESMO Congress 2023.

In the event that any relevant party, including but not limited to, author, co-authors, institute(s), research sponsor(s), plans to issue a press release prior to presentation at the ESMO Congress 2023, ESMO requests that it adheres to the [Qualitative Sample Press Release](#) format by summarising abstract data in a qualitative rather than quantitative way, and avoiding interpretations about the implications of the data for clinical practice.

The relevant party is to submit to ESMO ([programme@esmo.org](mailto:programme@esmo.org), cc: [media@esmo.org](mailto:media@esmo.org)) written notification of the intention to issue a press release in advance of the release itself.

A note stating that full data has been submitted for presentation at the ESMO Congress 2023 should be added in the press release.



ESMO is available to provide guidance and feedback for the qualitative press release.

If the press release includes significantly more information than ESMO's recommendations, the abstract's placement in the ESMO Congress 2023 is subject to change.

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.

## Copyright

ESMO holds copyright of all abstracts accepted for the ESMO Congress 2023 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 Congress 2023 programme and/or publication in the Congress Abstract Book.

The submission of abstracts accepted for ESMO Congress 2023 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](mailto:programme@esmo.org).

Commercial data mining of ESMO Congress 2023 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](mailto:programme@esmo.org).

## Financial support

Both ESMO and EONS offer abstract presenters the possibility to apply for Congress free registration, subsidised travel and accommodation to facilitate their attendance at the ESMO Congress 2023. Based on the submission categories and eligibility criteria outlined below, a limited number of ESMO Merit Travel Grants and 1 (one) EONS Novice Research Dissemination Award (NRDA) are available upon application.

### - ESMO Merit Travel Grants

A limited number of Merit Travel Grants to ESMO Congress 2023 are available, upon application, to first authors under the age of 40 (forty) who submit abstracts considered deserving of recognition. Selection will be made by the ESMO Congress 2023 Scientific Committee on a competitive basis from among the accepted abstracts.

The application for an ESMO Merit 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 (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 recipients with a fixed-amount monetary subsidy towards travel and accommodation costs. Complementary registration to the Congress will be offered by ESMO. Only abstract submissions made in the ESMO categories will be considered for an ESMO Merit Travel Grant.

Incomplete applications will not be considered.

Merit Travel Grant recipients must submit a report detailing the benefits of participating in the ESMO Congress 2023 by 30 November 2023.

### - EONS Novice Research Dissemination Award (NRDA)

This award is an initiative of the EONS Research Working Group that was launched in 2013. The award is intended to give cancer nurses, who are relatively new to research, an opportunity to present their research at an international conference. Therefore, it is only open to cancer nurses who have not yet presented their research outside their own country.

To be eligible for the award, the abstract presenter/lead author must:

- Be a cancer nurse with less than five years' research experience.
  - Be an EONS member (either an individual member or a member of her/his national oncology nursing society).
  - Have no previous experience of presenting their research at an international conference.
  - Be the first and presenting author of the abstract submitted.
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- Submit an abstract in one of the following categories:
    - ✓ Cancer nursing: eHealth and digital innovations
    - ✓ Cancer nursing: Health promotion, prevention and screening
    - ✓ Cancer nursing: Supportive care
    - ✓ Cancer nursing: Symptom management
    - ✓ Cancer nursing: Palliative and end-of-life care
    - ✓ Cancer nursing: Workforce and educational issues in cancer nursing

Only abstract submissions made in the Cancer nursing categories will be considered for the EONS Novice Research Dissemination Award. Applicants for the Novice Dissemination Award will be contacted and requested to submit supporting documents to confirm their eligibility.

If the abstract presenter/lead author cannot prove that they are meeting the specified eligibility criteria, they will not be considered for the award.