

# Research Minute

## Writing Abstracts for Research Posters or Presentations

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To present a poster or talk at a conference, one must submit an application to be on the program. The application will request speaker contact information and qualifications (have this information available when you apply online). Most family medicine societies require 1 or 2 “abstracts” or summaries of the applicant’s project. The “long” abstract is not-so-long, often 2500 characters including spaces. The “short” abstract is for the conference program, about 1250 characters; it is simply a shorter version of the 2500 abstract.

Applications for research posters or talks are written in a general IMRAD format:

- **Introduction**
- **Methods**
- **Results**
- **Discussion**

### Introduction/Background.

Keep it short. Use 1 or 2 sentences to describe the rationale for the project, and end with the study aim.

### Methods. Describe ...

**Subjects**—briefly describe inclusion and exclusion criteria. How many subjects did you recruit? Did you have a control group?

**Intervention** (if you did one). This refers to QI, teaching, behavioral interventions, medicines, or procedures. Describe what you did.

**Measurement**—describe the key variables you studied and/or describe your survey or chart review form.

**Procedure**—describe how you collected information—who did it, how often, when?

### Results.

This should be your thickest section. Start with 1-2 sentences about the sample demographics, then describe your most interesting findings. Be specific about numbers such as prevalence or means or p-values.

### Discussion/Conclusions.

How will this information be used by others? End with recommendations for clinicians or teachers or researchers, about 1 or 2 sentences.

*NAPCRG uses this format for conference submissions*

NAPCRG Subheading	Corresponds to:
Context	Introduction
Objective	
Design	Methods
Setting	
Patients	
Intervention	
Outcome Measures	Results
Results	
Conclusions	

## Where Can I Present My Work?

Family Medicine Societies	Conference Dates	Watch for Submission Due Dates
Society of Teachers of Family Medicine (STFM)	April or May	August or September <a href="http://www.stfm.org/Conferences/AnnualSpringConference">http://www.stfm.org/Conferences/AnnualSpringConference</a>
FMX: Family Medicine Experience (AAFP annual conference)	September or October	Late Spring <a href="http://www.aafp.org/events/fmx.html">http://www.aafp.org/events/fmx.html</a>
Collaborative Family Health Association (CFHA)	October or November	Mid-March <a href="http://www.cfha.net/">http://www.cfha.net/</a>
TAFP Annual Session & Primary Care Summit	October or November	June or July <a href="http://www.tafp.org/professional-development/aspcs/poster-competition">http://www.tafp.org/professional-development/aspcs/poster-competition</a>
North American Primary Care Research Group (NAPCRG)	October or November	Mid-April <a href="https://www.napcrg.org/">https://www.napcrg.org/</a>
STFM Conference on Practice Improvement	Early December	Mid-April <a href="http://www.stfm.org/Conferences/ConferenceonPracticeImprovement">http://www.stfm.org/Conferences/ConferenceonPracticeImprovement</a>

