



**28<sup>th</sup> ESPACOMP conference – Naples, Italy**  
**International Society for Medication Adherence**  
**NOVEMBER 21<sup>ST</sup> - 22<sup>ND</sup>, 2024**

## **ABSTRACT FORMAT GUIDELINES:**

### **General recommendations**

- Abstracts must be explicitly linked to medication adherence
- Abstracts must present studies that have followed the standards of ethics applicable and obtained ethical approval if appropriate.
- English language should be satisfactory.
- Abstracts must adopt the ESPACOMP-endorsed ABC Taxonomy, available from <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1365-2125.2012.04167.x>
- Authors must present in the abstract, in as much detail as space permits, information on the 4 minimum reporting criteria outlined in the ESPACOMP EMERGE reporting guidelines. These are available from: <https://www.espacomp.eu/project/emerge-guidelines/>
- Abstracts should not include references in the text or at the end.
- The title of the abstract is limited to 50 words, while the body of the abstract must not exceed 250 words.

## Specific recommendations

### ***Oral and poster presentations:***

Oral and poster presentations are the traditional format of the ESPACOMP conference. They are intended to present results of empirical research recently completed or in progress, and are following common recommendations, as follows:

- Abstracts must be structured, with section headings for Aim, Methods, Results, Discussion, and Conclusion.
- Aim: state the primary aim of the study, supported by key arguments or background information
- Methods: state the study design, participants/cases, measures and analysis, as appropriate for the type of study presented.
- Results: abstracts submitting empirical research must include analyses and findings accompanied by the relevant information (statistical, qualitative). Abstracts presenting work-in-progress and no results must mention expected findings; they will be automatically assigned to poster presentation.
- Discussion and Conclusion: state the implications of the findings for the field and/or how the findings contribute to the state-of-the-art on the topic.

### ***Roundtables/debates:***

Roundtables are intended to generate discussion on priorities and topics of current debate in medication adherence research and practice. Each roundtable is allocated 45 minutes and may involve between 3 and 5 very brief contributions from experts on the roundtable topic (NO separate submissions required for individual contributions). They would need to include an audience engagement activity or a time dedicated for questions and answers.

- Roundtable contributors must be from at least 3 separate research groups and 2 separate countries, and at least 2 separate disciplines (e.g. healthcare professionals, researchers, patient representatives, industry representatives, policy makers)
- Roundtable abstracts must be structured, with section headings for Aim, Rationale, Summary and Timetable
- Roundtable abstracts must specify Convenor details, and all Contributors details
- Aim: briefly specify the objectives of the roundtable
- Rationale: state the key arguments for the importance and timeliness of discussing the theme of the roundtable in relation to the current developments in the field
- Summary: outline the structure of the roundtable and describe briefly each contribution, as well as the audience engagement activity or questions and answers component.
- Timetable: state the order of the contributions and discussion/activity

## How are abstracts assessed

Each oral and poster presentation abstract is assessed by 2 reviewers volunteering among the current ESPACOMP effective members, and scores averaged. Differences in scores >5 points are subject to a 3<sup>rd</sup> review if they impact on the decision to accept, as oral or poster presentation. Four criteria are applied adding up to a total score of 0-20:

- Aim/hypothesis (2 points): the aim is clearly formulated and relevant for medication adherence, and/or a hypothesis has been formulated if applicable
- Scientific appraisal methods (6 points): the methods are clearly reported, appropriate to address the aim/hypothesis, and likely to achieve unbiased results
- Scientific appraisal results (6 points): results are reported appropriately, following relevant guidelines /best practice, and congruent with aims & methods
- Scientific appraisal newsworthiness (6 points): the study represents an important contribution to adherence science, considering the novelty/originality relative to the state-of-the-art and potential impact on adherence practice

Scores of  $\geq 4$  on newsworthiness and  $\geq 15$  overall are considered high-quality and likely to be included in the oral programme; scores of  $\geq 8$  to  $< 15$  generally indicate a sound study, likely to be shortlisted for poster presentation; scores of  $< 8$  generally indicate insufficient quality and are unlikely to be accepted. Most common reasons for rejection are not addressing medication adherence, presenting incomplete information on the study reported, insufficiently clear English language text.

Abstracts scoring  $\geq 8$  points will be accepted and presented as Oral and Poster presentation at the Conference.

Roundtables are assessed on the following criteria:

- Aim (4 points): the aim is clearly formulated and relevant for medication adherence, the theme of the conference and the ESPACOMP mission
- Methodology (6 points): the structure and time planning are clearly described, appropriate to address the aim/learning objectives and actively engage the audience
- Expertise (6 points): the expertise of the contributors is sufficiently broad and diverse to ensure a comprehensive and balanced approach to the topic
- Scientific value (6 points): the aim is of relevance to the current evolution of the state-of-the-art of adherence research and practice

Oral presentations and roundtables are selected for inclusion in the conference programme based on their scores and slots available. Oral presentations not included in the oral programme are automatically included as poster presentations. Roundtables not included in the conference programme are proposed as webinar events during the ESPACOMP 2025 online events programme.

Authors of all accepted abstracts must register and pay the conference fee by the deadline of the online registration. The abstracts of authors not registered by the deadline will be removed from the programme and not published in the conference abstract book.