

# Abstract Guidelines

**Abstract submission opens: 23 August 2024**

**Closing date for the receipt of abstracts: 31 January 2025**

If you would like to be on the program for the MJD International Research Conference, providing an abstract is the first step.

For the Darwin Conference we are keener than ever to focus on *Bridging Science and Service: Research and Culturally Responsive Healthcare for Cerebellar Ataxia*

The 2025 conference aims to foster collaboration among researchers and clinicians in the ataxia community, particularly those focusing on Spinocerebellar ataxias, to exchange invaluable insights, advancements, innovations, and drive breakthroughs in treatment and access to care for individuals affected by MJD, as well as their families and communities.

## Abstract categories, topics and assessment criteria

Abstracts are sought in the following **categories**:

**'Research'** - previously unpublished or recently published research reports, using quantitative and/or qualitative methods;

- Clinical Research and Trial Readiness
- Basic and Preclinical Research

**'Service'** - practical reports of projects on the ground and models of innovative and successful service delivery;

- Living with Ataxia - Clinical Care and Quality of Life

Attachment A includes a list of potential **topics**, provided to illustrate some of the current priority areas abstracts and papers might cover.

The **assessment criteria** that will be used to select abstracts are also listed in Attachment A.

## Types of presentations for which abstracts can be submitted

For each abstract, authors are asked to indicate the type of presentation for which it is submitted, from the following options:

**Oral presentation** 20 minutes. Abstract to be published in Conference Proceedings (see Note on publication below).

**Fire Talk** 10 minutes. Abstract to be published in Conference Proceedings (see Note on publication below).

### **A poster presentation**

Author to be available during poster sessions to enter into dialogue with viewers about the poster's content. Where possible, an electronic version of the poster (pdf, jpg) will be published in Conference Proceedings; if not available electronically, the submitted abstract will be published.

Following a review process by the Scientific Committee, authors will be contacted about the status of their abstract. Successful authors may be offered the presentation type of their choice or they may be offered a spot in a workshop, or as a poster presentation.

**Note on publication:** With the exception of authors who want to submit their papers after the Conference for publication elsewhere, all presenters will be required to provide their abstract for inclusion in the Conference Proceedings. Authors subject to the exception will be required to prepare a one-page summary of their presentation for the Conference Proceedings.

### **Conditions relating to abstracts**

- Abstracts should relate to **previously unpublished or recently published** papers, so that all papers presented at the conference will be original.
- Abstracts should be **no more than 400 words** and should be uploaded as a word document.
- Authors may **submit more than one** abstract.
- Submitting one or more abstract is **no guarantee** of a spot on the Conference program.
- Assistance with the presentation of an abstract is available to all who seek it, and is particularly offered to first-time presenters. Wherever appropriate, assistance will also be offered with abstracts and presentations. For further information, contact [mjdf2025@associatedadvertising.com.au](mailto:mjdf2025@associatedadvertising.com.au)

### **Format of abstracts**

- An abstract should summarise the important points of the proposed presentation and highlight the original content to be communicated. It needs to be concise but informative, containing an outline of the aims, methods, relevance, results and conclusions of the work undertaken.
- Abstracts should be uploaded as word documents ([DOWNLOAD TEMPLATE HERE](#)).
- **Abstracts should be no longer than 400 words** and should not include tables, figures or references.
- Abstract titles should be **no more than 12 words**.
- The file name of the document to be uploaded should be the **same title** as is on your abstract.
- Include authors names and details

### **Submission methods**

- Abstracts should be submitted online through the [Conference Website](#)
- Authors who are not able to submit their abstract online are asked to contact [mjdf2025@associatedadvertising.com.au](mailto:mjdf2025@associatedadvertising.com.au)

### **Successful abstracts**

Authors of successful abstracts will be offered a spot on the Conference program. Assuming that you accept the offer:

- You must register for the Conference;
- you will be sent paper guidelines and a timeline for the preparation of your abstract (Attachment B);
- you will be asked to provide a short speaker's biography for inclusion in the Conference Handbook; and
- your place on the program will be confirmed when your abstract and registration is received.
- All presented papers will be included in the Conference Proceedings, which will be published and on the MJDF website. In cases in which the paper is to be offered for publication elsewhere, a one-page summary of the presentation will be required for inclusion in the Proceedings.

## Attachment A

### Abstract Streams

Note: this list is provided to illustrate some of the current priority areas abstracts and papers might cover.

#### ***Living with Ataxia - Clinical Care and Quality of Life***

- The ataxia scene in Australia and Worldwide
- Medical, Allied Health and Rehabilitation Advancements
- Understanding and using medications and treatments for patients, allied health and support people
- Contextualised care (especially in culturally complex and low-resourced settings)
- Linking patient understanding and priorities – *patient-centred care*
- Cognition
- Molecular and Genetic Aspects

#### ***Clinical Research and Trial Readiness***

- Patient engagement in research (workshops welcome)
- Technology (wearables and speech aids)
- Data registries
- Biomarkers
- Phenotyping
- Imaging
- Clinical Trial Updates

#### ***Basic and Preclinical Research***

- Update and Overview on Gene Therapies
- Cellular and Animal models
- Mechanistic Insights and Pathogenesis
- Preclinical Treatment Studies
- Linking Laboratories and Lived Experience (workshops welcome)

### Criteria for the assessment of abstracts

The criteria used by the Scientific Committee in selecting abstracts will be as follows:

**Current and relevant:** the presentation will have an emphasis on and/or relevance to Spinocerebellar ataxias and Innovations in Culturally Responsive Ataxia Healthcare.

**Analytical:** the presentation will provide more than a description of a program or a service; it will draw out insights, what was learned, recommend new policy and/or actions.

**New knowledge:** it will provide new ideas or develop further what we already know or have shared previously.

Conference theme and topics: it will offer something unique and/or required relating to the Conference theme.

**Broadening health:** it will promote understanding of the range of factors and disciplines that impact on the health and wellbeing of individuals affected by MJD, as well as their families and communities.

**Quality:** it is of high quality scientifically and/or in other ways.

## Attachment B

### Timeline for abstracts and papers

<b>23 August 2024</b>	Call for abstracts opens
<b>31 January 2025</b>	Call for abstracts closes
January 2025	Offers to authors of a place on the program
January 2025	Successful authors confirm participation and provide brief biography
January 2025	Unsuccessful authors notified
	Draft program published on Conference website
February 2025	Final date for submission of speaker bios for Handbook
March 2025	Conference program published on website
	Abstracts for inclusion in Proceedings due
6 <sup>th</sup> - 9 <sup>th</sup> May 2025	<b>2025 MJD International Research Conference</b>
July	Workshop reports due
	Publication of Conference Proceedings

Questions about abstracts may be directed to [mjdf2025@associatedadvertising.com.au](mailto:mjdf2025@associatedadvertising.com.au)