

Dear AOTT readers,

I would like to inform you about some significant changes in the Editorial Board with the beginning of year 2018. Two dedicated section editors Sait Ada MD and Haluk Berk MD have replaced their posts with their younger counterparts. I would like to thank them for their valuable contributions on behalf of our readers and authors. I am certain that they are going to be amongst the most prolific consultants of the journal. We have two new section editors: Umut Akgün MD and Merter Yalçinkaya MD. I am sure that these young and productive colleagues will have a great contribution to our journal's quality.

In this editorial, I would like to stress the importance of the title and abstract in manuscript preparation. These are the only sections that readers can see when they search through online databases. Only a small group of readers who have a special interest in the related field will wish to read beyond the abstract. Since researchers usually have a limited time to read about a topic, only articles with an attractive title will elicit interest for further evaluation and then, only a well-prepared and informative abstract will attract researchers to get the full text of the article.

Preparation of an informative abstract needs time and effort. While evaluating submissions, I sometimes have the impression that titles and abstracts are prepared just prior to submission process of the article. Therefore, I would like to give some recommendations about the abstract writing:

- Prepare the abstract and title after completion of the manuscript.
- Information presented in the abstract and in the manuscript should be consistent.
- Most journals have some individual requirements for abstracts (word limit, type of abstract, recommended subheadings, etc.). Read the guidelines of the target journal carefully.
- Use as much as you can the allowed word limits
- Language skill is required for preparation of an attractive abstract. Non-native speakers should consider asking for professional help.
- Abbreviations and group names should be defined in the abstract.
- A typical abstract consists of four main sections:
 - Introduction
 - The question answered in the presented study is presented using one or two sentences.
 - Material, patients and methods
 - Provide adequate detail for study group or material and techniques.
 - Patient demographics and follow-up information belongs to this section
 - Avoid unnecessary details about the methods used
 - Results
 - Provide results for all important outcome parameters, give numerical results.
 - Provide the results of statistical evaluations
 - Avoid reporting bias, do not list only positive results.
 - Abstract should not contain information that is not present in the paper.
 - Conclusion
 - Conclusions must rely on the results of the study
 - Include clinical relevance of the results
 - Avoid a discussion of previous literature

I hope that this outline will help our authors in preparing more effective abstracts for their works.

Best regards,

Dr. Onder Kilicoglu
AOTT Editor-in-Chief