

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS – ABSTRACT SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

The Australian and New Zealand Society for Geriatric Medicine (ANZSGM) Annual Scientific Meeting will be held from Tuesday 11 – Friday 14 May 2027 at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre, Melbourne.

The Annual Scientific Meeting will bring together a diverse collection of expert speakers in the field of Geriatric Medicine and related disciplines, along with delegates across Australia and New Zealand.

The theme of the 2027 Conference is **"The Geriatrician Reimagined"**, offering a timely and thought-provoking lens through which to explore the future of geriatric medicine. As populations age and healthcare systems evolve, the role of the geriatrician has never been more important. Advances in technology, data analytics and precision medicine provide new opportunities to improve outcomes and personalise care. However, innovation alone is not enough. The future of healthy ageing also relies on clinical expertise, multidisciplinary collaboration, ethical leadership, and a deep understanding of the values, goals and lived experiences of older people. By embracing both innovation and the enduring principles of person-centred care, geriatricians can help shape a healthier future for ageing populations.

The Scientific Program Committee invites you to participate in the Annual Scientific Meeting by submitting a **Research Abstract** for oral and poster presentations. We want to hear about research projects that explore new ideas, stimulate discussion and drive improvements in care.

We also want to acknowledge that some efforts to improve care do not follow traditional scientific approaches and we invite you to submit an abstract for oral and poster presentations that describes your experience of trying to effect change at patient, system or service levels in the **Change Narrative** category. For these abstracts, we wish for you to focus on what you learned and what others can take away from your attempt to effect change, rather than whether your effort or the practice change "succeeded" or "failed". We also want to know what you have done to try and sustain these initiatives or embed them into routine practice. These abstracts will not be judged on their scientific merit but on their educational value to ASM attendees. Traditional qualitative, implementation science or audit approaches remain appropriate for standard, research abstract submission. Abstracts are to adhere to the templates provided on the conference website and in the abstract submission portal. Submissions should be original and the investigator's own work.

Please be sure to review all the information and instructions regarding abstract submission prior to completing the online portal.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES, TERMS AND CONDITIONS

All abstracts are to be submitted online via the Abstract Submission Portal on the conference website at www.anzsgmconference.org.

The abstract submission deadline is **Friday, 5 February 2027.**

TYPES OF ABSTRACTS

1. Research Abstract

Authors may submit an abstract for presentation in one of the following formats:

A. Oral Presentation

All submitted abstracts will be assumed to be eligible for oral presentation unless selected for poster presentation only. Oral presentations will be allocated approximately 15 minutes each in a concurrent session.

B. Poster Presentation

Posters will be displayed for the duration of the conference with an allocated time for presenting authors to be available in the display area to respond to queries. Posters must conform to the following:

- A0 size - 841mm (width) x 1189mm (height). Posters larger than these dimensions cannot be accommodated.
- Portrait orientation.
- Presenters are required to bring their own materials to affix their poster to the display panel.
- Panels provided for display are Velcro compatible.

2. Change Narrative

A. Oral Presentation

All submitted abstracts will be assumed to be eligible for oral presentation unless selected for poster presentation only. Four abstracts will be selected for an oral presentation. They will be allocated 15 minutes each in a concurrent session.

These presentations are not eligible for a Conference Award.

Please note:

- If less than four abstracts are submitted for the change narrative category, the concurrent session may not go ahead, and abstracts will be for poster presentation only.
- If more than four abstracts are submitted, those not offered an oral presentation may be offered opportunity for poster presentation

B. Poster Presentation

Posters will be displayed for the duration of the conference with an allocated time for presenting authors to be available in the display area to respond to queries. Posters must conform to the following:

- A0 size - 841mm (width) x 1189mm (height). Posters larger than these dimensions cannot be accommodated.
- Portrait orientation.
- Presenters are required to bring their own materials to affix their poster to the display panel.
- Panels provided for display are Velcro compatible.

ABSTRACT TEMPLATE FOR SUBMISSION

Please ensure you adhere to all the submission guidelines for your type of abstract. Failure to do so may result in rejection of your abstract.

- **PLEASE DO NOT INCLUDE AUTHOR NAME AND AFFILIATIONS IN THE ABSTRACT BODY**
- Abstracts must adhere to the Abstract Template (downloadable from the conference website or within the Abstract Submission Portal). Failure to use the template will result in the abstract being rejected.
- Title: The abstract title should be bolded, initial capital/lower case, not all capitals.
- The maximum word count is 250 words (excluding title, authors, affiliations and any references). Abstracts with a word count clearly over 250 will not be offered as an Oral Presentation.
- Abstract Text: Arial, Size 11, Left aligned. Single line spacing. Margins must be 2cm left, right, top and bottom.
- Include **bolded** structured headings as follows: **Aims, Methods, Results and Conclusions.** Leave a blank line space in between each section. Subheadings should be followed by the text on the same line. For

audit submissions include the following headings**: Problem, Design/methods, Practice change, Re-audit and Conclusions.** Ideally the audit loop has been completed.

- Macros must not be used within your abstract.
- **Please do not include tables or figures.**
- References: (optional) References can be included in the abstract text or as a list following the abstract. The style of the references must be in numbered or author/date style. Any references included in a reference list must be cited within the abstract text.
- Abbreviations must only be used if defined immediately after the full word or if the phrase is used for the first time.
- Please ensure that the title of abstract file does not contain identifiable information.
- Please complete conflict of interest disclosure

ABSTRACT REVIEW CRITERIA

1. Research Abstract

- It is very important that numerical data and statistical analysis (as appropriate) are presented in the abstract. Statements such as *"findings will be discussed"* or *"data will be presented"* are not appropriate and will result in rejection of the abstract.
- Multiple abstracts from the same overall study are welcome but they need to be sufficiently different to justify multiple oral presentations.
- Case reports will not be accepted.
- Literature Reviews may be accepted if they are supported by a rigorous systematic review. This will involve a clear description of the literature search methods, criteria for inclusion and exclusion of articles, and evidence of critical appraisal of the literature.
- The ANZSGM Scientific and Research Committee will judge all abstracts blind to author's names and affiliations.
- Abstracts by Advanced Trainees will be ranked separately to Free Papers.
- Abstracts will be judged on the following criteria with a maximum score of 50:
    - General interest (10 points)
    - Novelty (10 points)
    - Scientific validity (20 points)
    - Quality of presentation (10 points)
- There is limited time in the conference program allowed for research presentations. Therefore, the highest-ranking abstracts will be selected for oral presentations (unless otherwise requested). The rest will be offered poster presentations and the lowest ranking abstracts may be rejected. It is therefore desirable to ensure that your abstract is of the highest quality possible. Eligibility for prizes is also determined by abstract quality (see below "Conference Awards").
- Abstracts that do not meet the stated guidelines will not be eligible for review or inclusion in the program.
- We wish to encourage society members to submit their own work. As such, we will preference investigator-initiated research over commercially-lead work for presentation.
- Investigators are encouraged to contact the conference organiser if they have questions or concerns about eligibility.
- All submissions will be required to complete a Conflict-of-Interest statement. These statements must be included in presented work. Those abstracts judged by ANZSGM Scientific and Research Committee to have a high perceived Conflict of Interest may be rejected from the programme.

2. Change Narrative

- Members of the ASM Organising Committee will review these abstracts. They will not be blind to authors' names or affiliations (so to ensure diversity of selected abstracts – see below).
- All abstracts will be reviewed together.
- Abstracts will be selected based on the following criteria:
    - General interest and relevance to clinical practice (15 points)
    - Quality of abstract presentation (10 points)

    - Change process issues described (20 points)
    - Learnings (and plans for sustaining initiative) (15 points)
        - Total (60 points)
- The Local organising committee reserve the right to adjust the mix of selected abstracts to ensure diversity of content, and of presenters/ work locations.

PUBLICATION OF ACCEPTED ABSTRACTS

Research abstracts are published in the *Australasian Journal of Ageing (AJA)*. However, they will be rejected if they do not meet the minimum requirements:

- Abstracts must comply with the abstract template guidelines including the formatting and length.
- The argument must be followed clearly and supported by a sufficient amount of data.

CONFERENCE AWARDS

If eligible, the highest-ranking research abstracts will be considered for an award.

To be eligible for the **RM Gibson Prize** authors must meet the following criteria:

- The research was performed as an Advanced Trainee in Geriatric Medicine under the auspices of the RACP Geriatric Medicine STC/SAC.
- The author will present within 18 months of completing their Advanced Training.
- The research was NOT conducted when under another SAC/STC, such as general medicine, palliative care, etc.
- The author must be a current member of ANZSGM.
- The author must not be a previous winner of the RM Gibson Prize.

To be eligible for the **Career Investigator Prize** authors must meet the following criteria:

- The author has received their initial Fellowship (FRACP or equivalent) within the last five years. The last year of Advanced Training was in 2022 onwards.
- The author must be a current member of ANZSGM.
- The author must not be a previous winner of the Career Investigator Prize.

The highest-ranking eligible abstracts for each prize will be grouped together and invited to present in a dedicated session at the Annual Scientific Meeting. The judging panel will be made up of at least 3 people and may include the visiting national and international guest speaker along with at least one member of the ANZSGM Scientific and Research Committee without a conflict of interest. The panel will be agreed upon by the Scientific and Research Committee.

Presentations will be judged on the following criteria with a maximum score of 55:

- General interest (10 points)
- Novelty (10 points)
- Scientific validity (20 points)
- Quality of abstract presentation (10 points)
- Answering questions (5 points)

Those abstracts eligible for a RM Gibson or Career Investigator Prize but do not ultimately win will be given a commendation in recognition of the quality of their work.

Highest ranking posters will be eligible for a **Poster Prize**. Posters eligible for this prize will be judged by 3 members of the ANZSGM Scientific and Research Committee/ Annual Scientific Meeting Organising Committee according to the following criteria:

- General interest (10 points)

- Novelty (10 points)
- Scientific validity (20 points)
- Quality of presentation (10 points)

SUBMISSION PORTAL INSTRUCTIONS

When submitting your abstract for oral or poster presentation you will be asked to include or indicate the following:

- Presentation title (this will be used for printing in the final program)
- Upload abstract document (abstracts must conform to the abstract template)
- All the authors' names and affiliations must be included and listed in the order they wish to appear in the text
- All abstracts will be assumed to be eligible for oral presentation unless it has been selected as poster presentation only when completing the Abstract Submission Portal.
- Conflict of Interest Statement
- Nominate eligibility for the RM Gibson Prize and the Career Investigator Prize.
- In recognition of the potential for career disruption (>90 calendar days) affecting award eligibility timelines (e.g., pregnancy, major illness/injury, carer responsibilities), we request those nominating eligibility for a prize to additionally:
    - Confirm membership of ANZSGM
    - State year completed Advanced Training
    - Whether claiming a career disruption and brief description of the nature of this disruption
    - Eligibility will then be assessed by the ANZSGM Scientific and Research Committee

The deadline for all abstract submissions is **Friday, 5 February 2027**. Authors can log back into the portal to amend submissions up until this date.

If you have any difficulty submitting your abstract online, please contact:

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