

# ABSA Conference Abstract Submission Guidance

Created by: Julianne L. Baron, PhD, CPH, RBP(ABSA)

Reviewed by: the 2024 ABSA Scientific Program Committee (co-chairs:  
AJ Troiano, PhD, RBP(ABSA), Colleen Kovacsics, PhD, RBP(ABSA), and  
Susan Vleck, PhD, RBP/CBSP(ABSA))

# Two Main Abstract Types

- Scientific
  - Scientific platform/poster should convey findings or analysis of a scientific research project related to biosafety or biosecurity process and/or procedures. The platform/poster communicates a hypothesis formulated from gathering data and the hypothesis is verifiable by means of observation or experiment.
- Informational
  - Informational platform/poster should convey knowledge or facts outlined in an informative and descriptive manner. Details on the platform/poster capture the important information about the topic and increase the audience's understanding of biosafety or biosecurity processes and/or procedures.

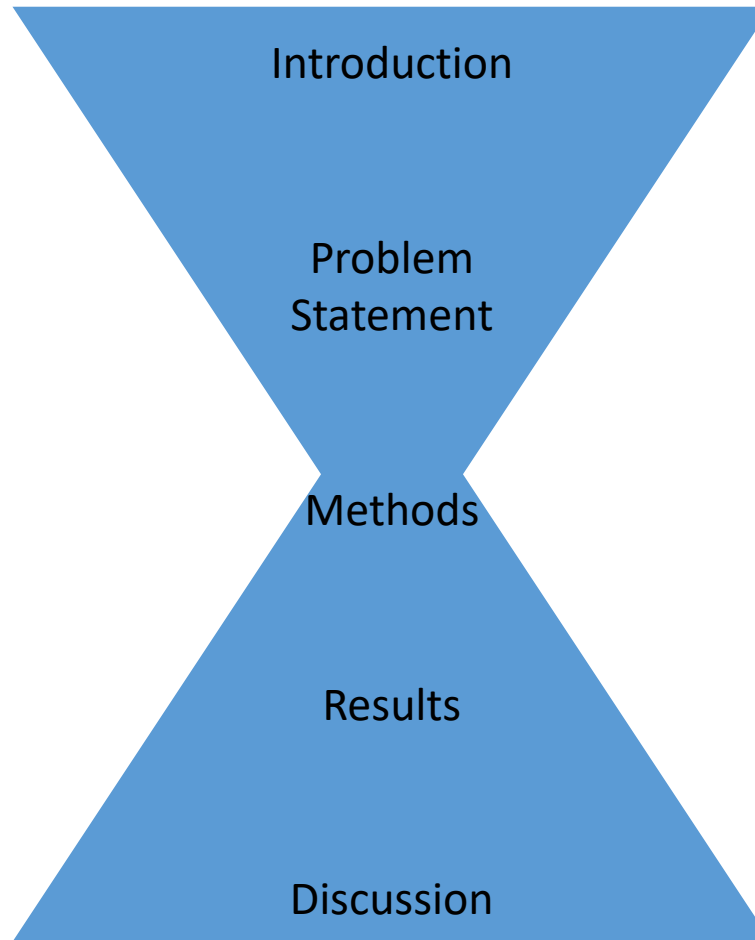
# Scientific Abstracts

- Often are easier to assess for novelty, impact, and relevance to the ABSA conference participants
- Summarize the research field, the problem area (with hypothesis), how it was investigated (experimental methods), what the results are, and how the results impact the research field/problem area
- Abstracts often follow the IMRaD format
  - Introduction,
  - Methods,
  - Results, and
  - Discussion

# Informational Abstracts

- Abstracts can describe a survey, assessment, program evaluation, method development, or similar topic
- Often are not described in standard scientific IMRaD format and can be harder to assess for novelty, impact, and relevance to the ABSA conference participants
- To be most effective, informational abstracts must:
  - Emphasize interpretation of the result
  - Highlight the significance of the findings
  - Present unique perspectives on solving the problem

# Using IMRaD



# Introduction and Problem Statement

- Provide information that is necessary for context
- Consider addressing:
  - What is known already about the subject?
  - Why is it important?
  - What questions remain unanswered/unsolved?
  - How do you hope to address the unanswered questions?
- Include a specific statement about your research question and objectives
  - Does not have to be a hypothesis
  - Should be the one sentence description of the basis for your project

# Methods and Setup

- Provide information about how you investigated your research question
- Consider addressing:
  - How did you set up your survey/assessment/evaluation to answer your research question?
  - Who was included or surveyed?
  - Was IRB review needed?
  - How did you assess or evaluate the topic you focused on?
- Provide a brief description of how someone be able to repeat your work at their institution

# Results and Findings

- Provide information about the findings of your study
- Consider addressing:
  - How many people participated?
  - What was the response rate?
  - What did your survey/assessment/evaluation find?
- Provide numbers, percentages, etc. as appropriate for your type of project
- Do not contextualize findings yet, just present a summary of the data



# Discussion, Outcomes, and Lessons Learned

- Provide information that puts your findings in context
- Consider addressing:
  - Were your results/findings expected?
  - Were there any outliers or unusual findings?
  - What do your results/findings mean?
  - How effective was your project (if you implemented something)?
  - What did you learn while you were conducting this study?
  - How is your study significant for others who may want to do similar projects?
  - How does this impact the biosafety/biosecurity field in general?