

2017 AOTA ANNUAL CONFERENCE & CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

March 30–April 2
Philadelphia



Celebrate 100 years of occupational therapy!

Submitting a Successful Scientific Research Proposal for AOTA 2018.

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Objectives

- Identify critical elements of a strong research proposal.
- Understand the submission process and application of scoring criteria.
- Identify strategies from successful research presenters.

First Step: Read the criteria!

- Read the criteria for a Scientific Research Proposal
- Read the scoring criteria
- Read the instructions
- **Read them again!**

What makes it Scientific Research?

- Scientific Research proposals support the AOTA's Vision 2025 of occupational therapy as being **science-driven and evidence-based**.
- Proposals must focus on research projects which will contribute to the occupational therapy body of knowledge, articulate and promote the distinct value of occupational therapy and demonstrate rigor in design.

Priority will be given to the following identified research priorities (AOTF, 2016):

- Health Behaviors to Prevent and Manage Chronic Conditions
- Functional Cognition
- Safety and Injury Prevention in Home, Clinical, and Community Settings
- Technology and Environmental Supports in Home and Community
- Development and Transitions for Individuals and Families
- Emotional and Physiological Influences
- Family and Caregiver Needs
- Health care experience: access, care coordination, utilization

(AOTF, 2016)

Is it a Scientific Research Proposal?

- Scientific Research Proposals require **data that has been collected and analyzed**. If you do not have data, select General Proposal or submit at another time.
- Research-related topics such as methodology, research challenges, or capacity building should be submitted as a General Proposal, because the scoring of the Scientific Research Proposals relies heavily on study design and data.
- If it is a research work in progress, preliminary data analysis **must be** included, if you are to have any chance of meeting minimal scores.

Scoring Criteria:

Maximum possible total point = 50:

- Purpose (/5points)
- Rationale/Background (/5points)
- Design (/5points)
- Participants or data sources (/5points)
- Methods to obtain data (/5points)
- Analytical methods/ analysis (/5points)
- Results (/5points)
- Conclusion (/5points)
- Impact statement (/5points)
- Relates to research priorities (/5points)

Scoring Rubric

Score	Descriptor	Additional Guidance for Scoring
5	Excellent	Exceptionally strong with no weaknesses
4	Very good	Strong but with some minor weaknesses
3	Good	Strong but with at least one moderate weakness
2	Satisfactory	Some strengths but with some moderate weaknesses
1	Poor	Very few strengths and numerous major weaknesses
0	Absent	Not addressed

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Title: First impressions.....

- **Do** make it :
 - Interesting (e.g. *Predictors of Depressive Symptoms Among Elders in Senior Residences*)
 - Descriptive (e.g. *Predictors...Elders...Senior Residences*)
 - Content rich and conveys the message on why this proposal is important.
- **DO NOT** make it too long (e.g. *A holistic survey of occupational therapists in order to understand how occupational therapist use power and the roles occupational therapists play in the healthcare and educational systems in order to help develop more leaders in the profession.*)
- **DO NOT** make it too short (e.g. *OT works!*)

Formats

- **Research Paper:**
 - 15-minute duration.
 - 3 to 4 papers will be grouped together with 15 additional minutes for facilitated discussion. Total session length is 60 minutes or 90 minutes.
- **Poster:**
 - Displayed on a 4-ft x 8-ft cork bulletin board.
 - Posters will be on display during a designated 2-hour time period.
 - Presenters are required to be with their poster for the entire 2-hour session.

NEW!

Young Scientists Event

AOTA is excited to introduce a new event – where young scientists are able to share their research. Eight posters - during each 2-hour poster session have been selected to present their research to a larger audience. Speakers will be **presenting their research for 15 minutes on the Young Scientists stage** located within the assigned poster room.

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Choose an appropriate primary and secondary focus

Primary

- Assessment/Measurement
- Prevention and Intervention (e.g. Efficacy)
- Translational Research (e.g. Effectiveness)
- Basic Research
- Health Services Research

Secondary

- Children & Youth
- General & Professional Issues
- Health & Wellness
- Mental Health
- Productive Aging
- Rehabilitation, Disability, & Participation
- Work & Industry

Objectives: At the conclusion of this session, participants will be able to:

- Communicate your intent
- Use active voice, action words
- Reflect audience level you will target
 - Introductory: define, list...
 - Advanced: explain, analyze...
- Common issues:
 - Missing
 - Do not reflect content
 - Are not realistic in time frame

Structured Abstract:

- Character Maximum Limit (includes spaces): 3,800 approximately 750 words.
- The abstract must include statements of: (1) Purpose; (2) Design; (3) Method; (4) Results; & (5) Conclusion.
- Headings are NOT required.
- Note: If accepted for conference the abstract will be published in the *American Journal of Occupational Therapy* and **MUST** be submitted ready for publication.

Structured Abstract: Purpose

- Clearly state the **purpose** of the study and research question(s) (5 points)
- Provide the **rationale/background**. Explain why your research is needed and how your research addresses an important problem or issue in occupational therapy. (5 points)

Structured Abstract: Design

- Describe the **study design** (e.g. experimental, quasi-experimental, descriptive, ethnographic, narrative, phenomenological) (5 points).
- Describe the criteria and method(s) used to recruit and select **participants or data sources** for study (e.g. diagnosis, age, severity level, studies) (5 points).

Structured Abstract: Method

- Describe the instruments or methods used to collect data (e.g. measurement tools, qualitative methods (interview, approach, etc.) (5 points).
- Describe the analytical methods:/ analysis procedure (5 points).

Structured Abstract: Results

- Summarize findings and link findings to your research question and analysis. (5 points)

Structured Abstract: Conclusion

- Explain the **conclusion(s)** you have drawn from your findings, clearly linking them to the research question(s). Include knowledge translation or implementation strategies, if relevant. (5 points)
- This section must include a brief **Impact Statement** (recommended length: <300 characters; these characters are included in abstract limit of 3,800) explaining: (1) How is the proposal important to practice, policy, and/or science? OR (2) How likely will it exert a powerful influence on occupational therapy? (5 points).

References

- References to the literature should be formatted using APA style; they are **NOT** required and should be kept to a minimum. **All references to journal articles should include the doi.**

Common Issues:

- Learning objectives not supported by content
- Research question and rationale not clearly stated
- Methodology does not support purposes of study
- Participants inadequately described
- Too much text on background – not enough on methods and findings
- Data Analyses omitted, inappropriate, poorly described
- Results too general; suggesting that data has not been collected
- Conclusions unjustified based on results; poorly described
- Contribution to OT unclear
- If research work in progress, lack of preliminary data analysis

Abstract Synopsis

- Character Maximum Limit: 300 (including spaces)
- Summarize the major points of your abstract and describe how this topic will advance either the practice/professional development of the participant or the field of occupational therapy.
- If your proposal is accepted, this information will be printed in the onsite Conference Program Guide and the *American Journal of Occupational Therapy* and MUST be submitted ready for publication.
- Do NOT use subheadings in the abstract synopsis.

Tips...

- Be sure to follow instructions on listing authors and credentials.
- Give yourself time and do not leave it to the last minute!
- Prepare the proposal in word (with spell check) and copy and paste it into the submission system.
- Identify a “critical” reader and have them review the proposal against the scoring criteria!

Rejections.....

- Sometimes it is just a matter of the volume of the submissions!
- Take a minute. Then
 - Regroup.
 - Rethink.
 - Revise (if appropriate).
 - Resubmit next year

Remember...

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