Virtual

9 – 11 December 2020

Poster abstract submission

Conditions of Acceptance
31st International Symposium on ALS/MND

Conditions of Acceptance for poster abstracts

This document contains important information on the conditions of acceptance for poster abstracts submitted for consideration for the 31st International Symposium on ALS/MND to be held virtually on 9-11 December 2020.

Due to the change in the format and structure of the Symposium, these conditions may vary from those published in the ‘First announcement/Call for abstracts’ at the beginning of this year.

Deadlines

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<th>Abstract submission</th>
<th>Monday 28 September 2020 (23:59/11.59PM UK time)</th>
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<td>Withdrawal</td>
<td>Monday 12 October 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>Poster PDF &amp; video submission</td>
<td>Friday 13 November 2020</td>
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<td>Content available to view at the virtual Symposium</td>
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This document contains information on:

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1 Corresponding and presenting author

1.1 Abstracts should be submitted by the corresponding author of the abstract. The corresponding author is the only person that will receive email correspondence from us (including abstract paper number).

1.2 A presenting author should be identified in the abstract submission process. If your abstract is accepted, this will be the primary person presenting the poster as a pre-recorded ‘lightning explainer’ video (up to 3 minutes) for the virtual poster hall, and will be available to take part in the live poster session at the virtual event. Other authors are welcome to take part in the live poster sessions too.

1.3 Any changes, including a change of the presenting author, may be requested up to the abstracts submission deadline (28 September 2020) by emailing abstracts@mndassociation.org, quoting your abstract paper number in all correspondence. There is no guarantee that changes requested after the deadline will be processed.

2 Correspondence

2.1 All abstract submitters must first register for the Virtual Symposium to receive their unique link to submit an abstract (payment can be made later after receiving the decision of abstract). The email address and contact details used to register as a user for abstract submission should relate to the corresponding author. The unique link to the abstract submission portal will be sent in the confirmation of registration email. A link to the registration page can be found on the MND Association’s website: https://symposium.mndassociation.org/register.

2.2 The email address of the corresponding author will be published with any accepted abstracts.

2.3 Notification of abstract decisions will be communicated via email to the corresponding author in early October.

- If the submission is accepted, you will be provided instructions on how to submit your supporting documents (PDF of poster and pre-recorded 3 minute video presentation). These documents must be received by **13 November 2020**.

2.4 The corresponding author must be contactable by email. An alternative email address for the corresponding author must be provided during the abstract submission process.

2.5 If the corresponding author email address becomes invalid, please contact the MND Association as soon as possible, at abstracts@mndassociation.org, to change it. Please note that we are unable to change contact details unless they become invalid.

2.6 To ensure you receive symposium emails from us, please add abstracts@mail.mndassociation.org and symposium@mail.mndassociation.org to your e-mail ‘safe senders’ list and check your spam/junk folders regularly.
3 Abstract content

3.1 Abstracts may be submitted even if previously presented at a national/international meeting.

3.2 Abstracts must be in English and be no longer than 450 words; this includes references and acknowledgments but not the title. If you exceed the word limit your abstract will not be accepted.

3.3 Please ensure that your abstract is checked for grammar, understanding and accuracy as it will NOT be proof-read by the MND Association and there is no spellchecker available within the submission system (unless your browser can do so). Any mistakes remaining in your abstract after the submission deadline will be published and the MND Association will not accept responsibility for this.

3.4 The title should be as brief as possible but long enough to indicate clearly the nature of the study (maximum of 35 words). This will make your ePoster searchable in the virtual poster hall.

3.5 Do not include author names in the title or body of your abstract because a ‘blind’ reviewing process will be used. You will be asked to enter author names in a separate question on the submission form.

3.6 Do not start abstracts with very basic descriptions of ALS/MND e.g. ‘ALS is an adult-onset, rapidly progressive neurodegenerative disease’ as an opening sentence (this is an ALS conference so this knowledge is assumed).

3.7 The submission system has one text box to input your abstract. Please type in or copy in your abstract in plain text and add subheadings manually where appropriate (i.e. background, objectives, methods, results, discussion, references, acknowledgments). Please note, special characters must be inserted manually using the ‘special characters input’ tool box.

See the example, using a previous abstract, below (word count 364):

Background
Diagnostic uncertainty in ALS has serious management implications and delays recruitment into clinical trials. Emerging evidence of pre-symptomatic disease-burden provides the rationale to develop diagnostic applications based on the evaluation of in vivo pathological patterns early in the disease. After years of descriptive MRI studies in ALS, a number of studies have now emerged outlining diagnostic and prognostic applications based on pattern recognition (1).

Objectives
To outline and test a diagnostic classification approach based on an array of complementary imaging metrics in key disease-associated anatomical structures.
Methods

All participants of this prospective biomarker study provided informed consent in accordance with the Medical Ethics Approval of the project (Beaumont Hospital, Dublin, Ireland). Data from 75 ALS patients and 75 healthy controls were randomly allocated in a ‘training’ and ‘validation’ cohort. Spatial masks were created for anatomical foci which best discriminate patients from controls in the ‘training sample’. In a virtual ‘brain biopsy’, data was then retrieved from these key disease-associated brain regions. White matter diffusivity indices, grey matter T1-signal intensity values and basal ganglia volumes were evaluated as predictor variables in a canonical discriminant function.

Results

Following predictor variable selection, the canonical discriminant function reached an Eigen value of 0.871, a canonical correlation value of 0.682, Wilks lambda of 0.534, Chi-square 62.983 and a significance of less than 0.001. The model showed an overall classification sensitivity of 89.1% and specificity of 85.5% in the ‘training’ group. In the ‘testing sample’ both sensitivity and specificity reached 90%.

Discussion

This study evaluates disease-associated imaging measures in a diagnostic application. From a biomarker perspective, the meaningful interpretation of data from single individuals is paramount for the development of viable clinical applications. Although larger samples will be required for robust validation, the study confirms the potential of multimodal quantitative imaging in clinical applications. The concept of region-of-interest (ROI)-based, spatial reference system guided ‘data biopsies’ is also applicable to longitudinal analyses and potentially for the development of monitoring markers.

References


Acknowledgements

We would like to thank patients for taking part in the study. Funding for this study was provided by ‘name of funder’ from grant ‘grant code’.

If the work is on a case study, please clearly state the nature of the case study to be presented.

Abstracts must not include tables or figures.

Data presented must be statistically robust and authors are requested to clearly state P and N values where necessary. Where the research involves the use of animals, presenters should consider the points raised in the ARRIVE guidelines when writing their abstracts www.nc3rs.org.uk/arrive-guidelines.
3.11 SI units should be used and non-standard abbreviations must be fully defined when first used (ALS and MND do not need defining).

3.12 Authors listed on the abstract must fulfil the criteria linked here: http://authorservices.taylorandfrancis.com/defining-authorship

3.13 All abstracts must be submitted online, via a unique link found in the author’s confirmation of registration email. A link to the registration page can be found on the MND Association’s website https://symposium.mndassociation.org/register. Abstracts cannot be accepted via email.

3.14 Where several abstracts on a similar subject are submitted by the same author or research group, only one poster may be offered.

3.15 Any abstract submission forms that have information on them, but have not been submitted by the deadline will not be considered for an ePoster presentation. Abstracts submitted with very little content may be rejected.

4 Commitments of accepting the decision of your abstract

4.1 If an abstract is accepted, at least one author must fully register (including payment) to attend the virtual conference to present the poster by the withdrawal deadline of 12 October 2020. If this requires a change to the original presenting author, please inform us by contacting abstracts@mndassociation.org immediately. No reduced fees are available for poster presenters.

4.2 Failure to fully register for the symposium (including payment of the registration fee) after you have accepted (not withdrawn by 12 October 2020) will result in your ePoster being withdrawn.

4.3 Authors accepting the offer of a poster presentation must ensure their poster PDF and pre-recorded 'lightning explainer' video is submitted by the submission deadline of 13 November 2020 to ensure they will be displayed in the virtual event’s poster hall. Instructions on how to submit these supporting documents will be provided with notification of acceptance in October. We advise you begin this submission well in advance of the deadline to ensure that any difficulties can be resolved in good time.

4.4 If your abstract is accepted, failure to submit the supporting documents (poster PDF and video) by 13 November 2020 will result in the presentation being withdrawn from the virtual conference.

4.5 Poster abstracts will be made available to view on the virtual platform in December 2020 and a PDF of poster abstracts will be made available on the MND Association Symposium website post-event in January 2021. Please note that printed abstract books will not be available for the virtual event this year. Published abstracts from our invited oral presentation speakers will be available on our Symposium website pre-event: www.mndassociation.org/symposium. If you require hard copies of these abstracts, please print these in advance of the meeting.
4.6 By submitting an abstract, you confirm that your abstract is:

• Your own work
• Does not infringe any intellectual property rights of any other person or entity
• Cannot be construed as plagiarizing any other published work
• Contains no content that is abusive, defamatory, libellous, obscene, fraudulent, nor in any way infringes the rights of others, nor is in any other way unlawful or in violation of applicable laws

5 Withdrawing your abstract

5.1 If you wish to withdraw an abstract please contact the MND Association by email at abstracts@mndassociation.org as soon as possible stating the abstract paper number of your abstract (assigned at initial submission).

5.2 Abstracts withdrawn after 12 October 2020 may still be made available on our website.

6 Queries

6.1 Any queries regarding the submission of abstracts should be sent to abstracts@mndassociation.org with your abstract paper number (assigned at initial submission).