



35th international symposium on ALS/MND

Montreal

Canada

6 - 8 December 2024

Organised by the Motor Neurone Disease Association
in co-operation with the International Alliance of ALS/MND Associations

Abstract Submission Conditions of Acceptance

8 Things to know

before submitting an abstract

Presenting Author

Two abstract limit per presenting author and **MUST** contain the **presenting author's email address**.

1

In-person Attendance

All oral and poster presenters are expected to attend **in-person**.

2

Abstract Example

Basic introductions of ALS/MND are not necessary in abstracts, please refer to the **'Abstract Example'**.

3

Registration

Registration is **not** required to submit an abstract. All accepted presenters are required to register by **13 September**.

4

Posters

Bring your printed poster to display in the poster hall.

5

Poster Prize Criteria

Presenting authors **35 years or under/** awarded their **PhD within the last three years** may be considered for a **Poster Prize**.

6

Withdrawals

Withdrawals after 6 September **will** be published in the abstract journal.

7

8

Please ensure your abstract is:

- ✓ **Your own work** – (cannot be considered as plagiarism)
- ✓ **Approved by all authors and funders**
- ✓ **Does not infringe on any intellectual property rights**
- ✓ **Does not contain abusive, defamatory, libellous, obscene, fraudulent language**
- ✓ **Does not infringe the rights of others, is not unlawful or in violation of any laws**

If you have any queries regarding your abstract submission, please email abstracts@mndassociation.org

35th International Symposium on ALS/MND

Conditions of Acceptance for abstracts

This document contains important information for abstracts submitted for consideration for the 35th International Symposium on ALS/MND to be held in Montreal, Canada on 6 - 8 December 2024.

Key dates and deadlines

Abstract submission opens	Tuesday 7 May 2024
Abstract submission deadline	Thursday 11 July 2024 (23:59/11:59 PM UK time)
Abstract decision notification	August 2024
Withdrawal deadline	Wednesday 4 September 2024 (23:59/11:59 PM UK time)
Presenter registration deadline	Friday 13 September 2024
Abstract book published on Taylor & Francis website	Early November 2024
Abstract book published on Symposium website	Early November 2024
Poster PDF upload deadline	Monday 18 November 2024
Symposium	Friday 6 December - Sunday 8 December 2024

This document contains information on:

- 1 Corresponding / presenting author
- 2 Correspondence
- 3 Presentation Types
- 4 Abstract content
- 5 Commitments of accepting the decision of your abstract
- 6 Withdrawing
- 7 Poster prize
- 8 Queries

1 Presenting author

- 1.1 Abstracts must be submitted by the **presenting author**. This is the only person that will receive email correspondence from us about the abstract submission and presentation.
- 1.2 Submissions are limited to **two abstracts per presenting author**.
- 1.3 The presenting author will be the person presenting the oral/poster presentation at the Symposium. Presenting authors accepting the offer of an oral/poster presentation must attend the symposium in-person in Montreal, Canada and be present for their assigned session.
- 1.4 A request to change the presenting author may be made up to the abstract withdrawal deadline (4 September 2024) by emailing **abstracts@mndassociation.org**. There is no guarantee that changes will be processed in time for publication of the abstract book.

2 Correspondence

- 2.1 Presenting authors must submit their abstract through our Abstract Submission Portal which can be found at **symposium.mndassociation.org/abstracts**. Authors **do not** need to register before submitting an abstract. Once the abstract has been submitted, presenters must register for the Symposium through the unique registration link in the abstract portal or through the link in the abstract acceptance email. Authors must register by **13 September 2024** to secure their spot and present their data at the Symposium.
- 2.2 Notification of abstract decisions will be communicated via email to the presenting author:
 - The first notification in August will include the abstract decision.
 - A second notification in September/October will include specific presentation theme/session, time and date information.
 - Poster presenters will also receive details and instructions on poster guidelines and how to submit their poster material to our virtual platform for our virtual delegates (poster PDF) before the upload deadline (**18 November 2024, 23:59 UK time**).
- 2.3 The presenting author must be contactable by email. Alternative email addresses for the author can be provided during the abstract submission process.
- 2.4 If the corresponding author email address becomes invalid, please contact the MND Association as soon as possible, at **abstracts@mndassociation.org**, to change it.
- 2.5 To ensure you receive symposium correspondence 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 Presentation Types

3.1 Authors must stipulate the preferred presentation format:

- Oral Presentation
- Poster Presentation
- Work In Progress / Care Practice Poster Presentation

3.2 The 'Work in Progress / Care Practice Poster' category includes:

- Preliminary work (e.g. data or analysis not yet available)
- Case studies
- Care practice
- Resources (e.g. repositories or databases)

4 Abstract Content

4.1 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.**

4.2 Please ensure that your abstract is checked for grammar, understanding and accuracy as it will **NOT** be proofread 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 may be published and the MND Association can not accept responsibility for this.

4.3 The title should clearly indicate the nature of the study (maximum of 35 words). The title will be searchable in the Virtual Poster Hall on the Symposium platform, and be published in the abstract book.

4.4 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 section in the submission form.

4.5 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/MND conference so this knowledge is assumed).

4.6 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** (background, objectives, methods, results, discussion, references, acknowledgments). Please note, **special characters must be inserted manually** using the '**special characters keyboard**' tool.

See the '**Abstract Example**' below, using a previous abstract as it would appear in the published journal supplement (word count: 444).

Abstract Example:

SESSION 5A PROTEOSTASIS AND PROTEOTOXICITY

C44 The neuroanatomical distributions and morphologies of SOD1 inclusions segregate into different patterns in ALS patients carrying SOD1 mutations

K. Forsberg¹, S. Marklund⁴, T. Brännström⁴, V. van Deerlin³, A. Ludolph² and P. Andersen¹

¹Department of Clinical Science/Neuroscience, Umeå University; ²Department of Neurology, Ulm University; ³Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania; ⁴Department of Medical Biosciences/Pathology and Clinical Chemistry

Background: Distinct inclusions of misfolded superoxide dismutase-1 (SOD1) in motor neurons and glial cells are morphologic hallmarks of ALS caused by mutations in SOD1 (1). Since patient autopsies are rare, there have been few comprehensive and comparative neuroanatomical studies on patients carrying different SOD1 mutations.

Objectives: In this international autopsy study, we investigated the distribution of misfolded (mis)SOD1 in the brain and spinal cord of eight ALS patients with six different pathogenic SOD1 mutations. Also, the deceased mother of one of the ALS patients with an A4V SOD1 mutation but without paresis during her lifespan was investigated.


Methods: Patients were recruited from the ALS Biobank at Umeå University Hospital, Sweden, and The Centre for Neurodegenerative Disease Research at the University of Pennsylvania, U.S.A. All patients had provided informed consent and the study was approved by the Medical Ethical Committees in Umeå and Pennsylvania.

To allow more detailed neuroanatomical studies, 70 µm thick sections were prepared and peptide antibodies against misSOD1 were immunostained on free floating CNS tissue sections. The sections were analysed using a BX53 light microscope (Olympus).

Results: Inclusions of misSOD1 were seen in the spinal cord in all ALS patients, but not all had intraneuronal SOD1 inclusions in Betz cells of primary motor cortex. Different morphological patterns of SOD1 inclusions were observed. In the A4V SOD1, G127X SOD1, G114A SOD1 and D124V SOD1 carriers there was an axonal/dendritic distribution of thread-like SOD1 inclusions, primarily confined to the spinal cord, brainstem and motor cortex. In patients with the D76Y SOD1 and A4T SOD1 mutations, there was a perinuclear/intracytoplasmic distribution of vacuole-surrounded inclusions, which were distributed both in the spinal cord and widely in the brain.

Interestingly, the asymptomatic 76-year-old carrier of the highly penetrant A4V SOD1 mutation lacked SOD1 inclusions in the brain and spinal cord except for a moderate number of thread-like inclusions in neurons of the sacral segment.

Discussion: The findings link SOD1 inclusions to ALS pathogenesis and suggest that mutant SOD1s can form diverse aggregate strains with different localization inside cells and anatomically within the CNS. Further collaborations to yield larger patient cohorts and more neuroanatomical studies on post-mortem tissue using the free-floating thick-section staining method are wanted to investigate staining and distribution pattern of SOD1 inclusions in greater detail.

 karin.forsberg@umu.se

Acknowledgements

We thank the patients and their families who contributed and made this study possible. This study was a collaboration between the University of Pennsylvania, USA, Ulm University, Germany and Umeå University, Sweden. The study was supported by grants from the Swedish Brain Foundation, KAW, the Ulla-Carin Lindquist Foundation and the Swedish Research Council.

References

1. Kato S, Takikawa M, Nakashima K, et al. Amyotroph Lateral Scler Other Motor Neuron Disord. 2000;1:163–84.

- 4.7 If the work is on a case study, please clearly state the nature of the case study to be presented.
- 4.8 Abstracts must not include tables or figures.
- 4.9 Please use Vancouver referencing style when submitting your abstract.
- 4.10 Data presented must be statistically robust and authors are requested to clearly state P and N values where necessary.
- 4.11 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.
- 4.12 SI units should be used and non-standard abbreviations must be fully defined when first used (ALS and MND do not need defining).
- 4.13 Authors listed on the abstract must fulfil the criteria linked here: authorservices.taylorandfrancis.com/defining-authorship
- 4.14 All abstracts must be submitted online, via the **abstract submission portal** that can be found at symposium.mndassociation.org/abstracts. Abstracts cannot be accepted via email.
- 4.15 Where several abstracts on a similar subject are submitted by the research group, only one poster may be offered.
- 4.16 Any draft abstract submission forms that have not been submitted by the deadline will not be considered. Abstracts submitted with very little content may be rejected.
- 4.17 Abstracts may be submitted even if previously presented at a national/international meeting.

5 Commitments of accepting the decision of your abstract

- 5.1 Presenting authors accepting the offer of an oral/poster presentation must register and attend the symposium **in-person** in Montreal, Canada and be present for their assigned session.
- 5.2 Presenting authors must register by **13 September 2024**. Failure to register for the symposium after you have accepted an oral/poster presentation allocation will lead to your presentation being withdrawn.
- 5.3 Authors accepting the offer of a poster presentation must bring their printed poster to the event and ensure it is on display at the conference venue at the designated time.
- 5.4 Posters will also be available to view online in our Virtual Poster hall on our Symposium platform. If a poster presentation is accepted, the presenting author must submit a PDF copy of the poster material to our virtual platform for our virtual delegates by the upload deadline **(18 November 2024, 23:59 UK time)**.

5.5 Abstracts accepted as oral or poster presentations will be published in an online open access supplement of *Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis and Frontotemporal Degeneration*. This abstract book will be published online, via the Symposium website (symposium.mndassociation.org), in November 2024. Abstracts accepted as 'WIP/CP' will be published on the MND Association's Symposium website. *Printed abstract books will not be available. If you require hard copies of abstracts, please print these in advance of the meeting from our website.*

5.6 By submitting an abstract, you consent to give us the license to act on your behalf with the Taylor & Francis group to publish your abstract in the symposium supplement of *Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis and Frontotemporal Degeneration*. You also confirm that your abstract is:

- Your own work
- Approved for submission by all authors and funders
- Does not infringe any intellectual property rights of any other person or entity
- Cannot be construed as plagiarising 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.

6 Withdrawing your abstract

6.1 If you wish to withdraw an abstract, please contact the MND Association by email at abstracts@mndassociation.org before **4 September 2024** stating the presenting author's name.

6.2 Due to publishing deadlines, abstracts withdrawn after this date will still be published in the journal supplement.

7 Poster Prize

The International Symposium on ALS/MND poster prize celebrates early-stage career ALS/MND researchers' outstanding work, presented at the conference poster session.

7.1 Prizes will be awarded for the best clinical and best biomedical posters.

7.2 Presenting authors are eligible to enter if they are aged **35 years or under** on the abstract submission deadline (**11 July 2024**) **OR** if they were awarded their **PhD within the last three years**. Career breaks may also be considered, please email abstracts@mndassociation.org.

7.3 If the presenting author meets the eligibility criteria stated in 7.2, they can select the box during abstract submission should they wish to be considered for the prize. Only those who confirm their eligibility at the abstract submission stage will be considered for prizes.

- 7.4** Indicating that you are eligible for a poster prize will not affect your likelihood of being chosen for an oral presentation.
- 7.5** Only abstracts accepted for publication in the online symposium journal supplement will be eligible for consideration for the prizes. Late abstracts will not be eligible for the poster prizes.
- 7.6** The initial stage of judging will be conducted by members of the Symposium Programme Committee, based on the written abstracts submitted by the deadline of **11 July 2024**. This will generate the clinical and biomedical poster prize shortlists. Final judging of shortlisted posters will take place at the conference.
- 7.7** The presenter must be available at an allocated time to answer questions from the judges at the Symposium (for example, a poster attended by a senior author describing the work of the presenter will not be eligible for consideration).
- 7.8** The winners of the clinical and biomedical poster prizes will be announced during the closing session on **8 December 2024**.
- 7.9** Further details about the poster prize will be available on the Symposium website (symposium.mndassociation.org/poster-prize) following the opening of the submission system on 7 May 2024.

8 Queries

- 8.1** Any queries regarding the submission of abstracts or posters should be sent to abstracts@mndassociation.org with the name of the presenting author.