



# Call for Abstracts

## General Information

1. All abstract submissions are due **6 March 2012** and must be submitted online. The link to the system can be found at <http://www.foodprotection.org/events/european-symposia/>.
2. Individuals are allowed to submit multiple abstracts.
3. Membership in the Association is not required for presenting at IAFP's European Symposium.
4. Abstracts submitted for IAFP's European Symposium will be evaluated for acceptance by the IAFP's European Symposium Organising Committee. Please be sure to follow the instructions carefully; failure to do so may result in rejection.
5. Accepted abstracts will be published in the program materials. Editorial changes may be made to accepted abstracts at the discretion of the Organising Committee.
6. All presenters must register for the European Symposium and assume responsibility for their own transportation, lodging and registration fees.

## Presentation Formats

**Technical** - Oral presentations will be scheduled for 15 minutes, including a two to four-minute discussion/question and answer period. A computer and LCD projector will be provided for presentations.

**Poster** - Freestanding boards will be provided for presenting posters. Handouts may be used, but audiovisual equipment will not be available. The presenter is responsible for bringing pins and velcro. All posters should include the title and author information.

## Submitting Abstracts Using the Online Abstract Management System

1. Abstracts must be received no later than 6 March 2012. Information must be submitted online. Go to <http://www.foodprotection.org/events/european-symposia/> to find the link for the online submission system.
2. All abstracts must be written in English.
3. Abstracts must be approved by all authors before submission.
4. Title — The title should be short but descriptive. The title should be in title case.
5. Author Information — All authors should be entered into the system. Author names should be: first name or initials followed by the surname. Author affiliations and E-mail addresses are also required fields in the system.
6. Presenter Name — Mark in the system the name of the person who will present the abstract.
7. Format preferred — Check the box to indicate your preference of either oral or poster format. The Organising Committee reserves the right to make the final determination of presentation format. You are not guaranteed to receive your preferred format.
8. Category — The categories are used by the Organising Committee to arrange the sessions. Check the box that best describes the category for which the abstract is most suited.

9. Abstract — Key the abstract into the web-based system according to the format below. Use no more than 300 words.

Abstracts MUST be in the following format:

*Introduction:* State the reason for pursuing this work.

*Rationale and Objectives:* State the purpose or objectives of the study.

*Results and Findings:* Describe the results obtained in the study (2–3 sentences). NOTE: Specific results, with statistical analysis (if appropriate), MUST be provided. A statement of “results pending” or “to be discussed” is not acceptable and will be grounds for abstract rejection. Results should be summarized; do NOT use tables or figures.

*Conclusions:* State the significance of the findings to food safety and/or public health (1–2 sentences).

*Acknowledgments:* A short acknowledgment of support, if applicable.

In addition to following these instructions, authors should carefully review the sections on selection criteria and rejection reasons as well as the sample abstract (available online) before submitting.

### **Selection Criteria**

1. Abstracts must be structured as described above.
2. Abstracts must report the results of research pertinent to the subject matter. Papers should report the results of new, applied studies dealing with: (i) causes (e.g., microorganisms, chemicals, natural toxicants) and control of all forms of foodborne illness; (ii) causes (e.g., microorganisms, chemicals, insects, rodents) and control of food contamination and/or spoilage; (iii) food safety from farm-to-fork (including all sectors of the chain including production, processing, distribution, retail, and consumer phases); (iv) novel approaches for the tracking of foodborne pathogens or the study of pathogenesis and/or microbial ecology; (v) public health significance of foodborne disease, including outbreak investigation; (vi) non-microbiology food safety issues (food toxicology, allergens, chemical contaminants); (vii) advances in sanitation, quality control/assurance, and food safety systems; (viii) advances in laboratory methods; and (ix) food safety risk assessment. Papers may also report subject matter of an educational nature.
3. Abstracts of an educational nature MUST present an improvement or innovation on a proven method in order to educate others (about a food protection-related topic). There should be a way to measure the outcomes and substantiate the improvements and/or outcomes. If measured, the sample size should be sufficiently large to represent the intended population.
4. Research must be based on accepted scientific practices.
5. Research results reported on may be published in peer-reviewed journals prior to the European Symposium or previously presented, and may have been presented at a past IAFP Annual Meeting, but cannot be presented at a future IAFP Annual Meeting.

### **Rejection Reasons**

1. Abstract was not prepared according to the “Instructions for Preparing Abstracts.” This includes abstracts that are too lengthy.
2. Abstract reports inappropriate or unacceptable subject matter.
3. Abstract is not based on accepted scientific or educational practices and/or the quality of the research or scientific/educational approach is inadequate.
4. Potential for the approach to be practically used to enhance food safety is not justified.

5. Work reported appears to be incomplete and/or data and statistical validity are not presented. Percentages alone are not acceptable unless sample sizes (both numbers of samples and sample weight or volume) are reported. Detection limits should be specified when stating that populations are below these limits. Indicating that data will only appear in the presentation without including them in the abstract is NOT acceptable.
6. Abstract was poorly written or prepared. This includes spelling and grammatical errors or improper language usage.
7. Abstract was received after the deadline for submission.
8. Abstract contains information that is in violation of the International Association for Food Protection Policy on Commercialism.
9. Abstract subject is similar to other(s) submitted by same author. (The committee reserves the right to combine such abstracts.)
10. Abstracts that report research that is confirmatory of previous studies and/or lacks originality will be given low priority for acceptance.

### **Student Competition**

The International Association for Food Protection is pleased to announce the continuation of the European Symposium Student Awards Competition. IAFP will select the two awards, one for the top poster and one for the top technical presentation. Winners will receive a free IAFP membership for one year and a free registration to the 2013 European Symposium. Students can apply for the competition while submitting their abstract through the online submission system. Each student may enter one abstract into the competition and must be the presenter of the abstract at the meeting.

### **Projected Deadlines/Notification**

Abstract Submission Deadline: **6 March 2012**

Acceptance/Rejection Notification: **3 April 2012**

### **Who to Contact:**

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