

Call for Abstracts

Are you a researcher in the field of autism wanting to disseminate your findings?

Are you a practitioner, willing to showcase your achievements?

Or are you autistic or a parent of an autistic individual and want to share your personal story? Maybe you want to share with the community your fight against discrimination?

If you answered 'yes' to any of these questions, we encourage you to submit your abstract by filling in the form: <https://autismcongress2022.org/abstrakty?lang=en>

You will have a unique opportunity to present your topic to the Attendees of the Autism-Europe Congress 2022, gathered both in Cracow and online.

Author guidelines – how to submit your abstract?

We are now accepting abstract submissions to the 13th Autism-Europe International Congress. The congress will take place online and in-person during the 7th-9th October in Cracow, Poland. In 2022, our hosts are the JiM Foundation from Poland and the overall theme of the congress is *A Happy Journey Through Life*.

Topics for submission

The congress programme will be made up of keynote presentations, pre-selected symposia topics, oral presentation sessions (selected via abstract submissions), poster presentations (via abstract submissions), panel discussions, workshops, "meet the expert" sessions and networking.

For many of the congress sessions, there will be a **balance of presentations** from researchers, practitioners (i.e. from health, education or social care), autistic people, family members and carers, and those involved with policy or advocacy. At the end of sessions, there will be time allotted for discussion and Q&A.

We have been guided by our Scientific Committee, as well as suggestions from the wider community, to create a diverse and exciting programme that will include symposium topics on the following:

1. **Diagnosing and supporting co-occurring difficulties in the early years**
2. **Reviewing the evidence base to support early communication development**
3. **Research review and practice recommendations in adult diagnosis**
4. **Best practice working with autistic adults with high support needs**
5. **Outcomes for adults on the spectrum: whose quality of life is it anyway?**
6. **Building healthy living: a lifetime perspective**
7. **Better mental health and wellbeing for autistic people and their families**
8. **What is the future of telehealth in autism services?**



9. **Reviewing the evidence: how to create the right environments for autistic pupils in school**
10. **Building positive peer relationships in schools**
11. **How do we support families marginalised by ethnicity, culture, language or finances?**
12. **Gender Identity and autism**
13. **Cognitive neuroscience – where are we now and where are we going?**
14. **Sensory differences – brain, behaviour and management**

For research abstracts, you can make a submission on a symposium topic or a topic that may fall outside of those listed above, which will be reviewed for inclusion as either an oral or poster presentation. Practice and personal accounts must relate to a symposia topic.

Abstract submissions – general provisions

You can submit an:

1. **abstract in the form of research submission,**
2. **abstract in the example of delivering practice or personal account.**

You can write your abstract in a style of your choosing but it must be within the 2500 character limit (including spaces).

Research submission

In terms of **research submissions**, there are no restrictions in terms of the methodology you have used but we expect there to be a scientific question set out that you have looked to answer with your chosen approach. We encourage you to use the headers in the next section to complete your submission (i.e. **introduction, methods, results and discussion**).

Example of delivering practice or personal account

You are also invited to submit an **abstract that is an example of delivering practice** (whether that is in health, education, family services or adult services).

You can also submit an **abstract that is a personal account** (e.g. as an autistic adult or family member). The practice and personal accounts do not have to be based around a research question and so the submission and review will be different.

We ask that practice and personal accounts fall under one of the 14 listed symposia topics. If you are unsure which type of submission you should make, please email ae.congress2022@jim.org

Submission process – how to write an abstract?

Please write research submissions under the following headings:

INTRODUCTION (e.g. Why did you undertake this study or action? Which question did you try to answer? What is the background to this field?)



METHODS (e.g. When, where and how was the study undertaken? Did you include autistic people in the design process? What experimental methods did you adopt?)

RESULTS (e.g. What did you find? What was the impact of your study? Were the results as you predicted?)

DISCUSSION (e.g. What might your study or action imply and why does it matter? How do you interpret your findings in the context of previous research? What are the next steps?)

If this is the first time you have submitted a research abstract and you have questions about what should be included please email for guidance ae.congress2022@jim.org

Submissions sharing examples of practice or a personal account

You will be asked before submitting to select which symposium topic your abstract relates to. We have provided some guidance below as to the headers or content you may want to include.

In terms of submissions around practice, you will be asked to indicate in the comment/remark section which field you work in (health, education, family services, adult services or other).

For practice and personal submissions, in the main body of your text please feel free to use the headers below as a guide:

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT? (e.g. there were was a lack of local provision; I changed my gender)

WHAT YOU DID OR EXPERIENCED (e.g. we established a service to diagnose adults; I have mentored a young autistic person)

WHAT HAVE BEEN THE CHALLENGES? (e.g. the finances are not there to support our service; I have not received adequate mental health support for my eating disorder)

WHAT HAVE BEEN THE BENEFITS? (e.g. we have trained local professionals in our methods; I have met like-minded people online)

WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD? (e.g. we are planning to set up a new school; I am planning to go to university next year).

Please do not include your name, the names of others, the names of institutions or places in your abstract. Please do not include information that is highly sensitive in nature (e.g. that may involve previous or ongoing court cases). If there are issues raised as a consequence of writing your abstract, then we encourage you to discuss these with people you feel comfortable doing so or to contact a local or national autism organisation for advice. You can also email the Organizers at: ae.congress2022@jim.org for guidance.

N.b. It is the author's responsibility to submit a correct abstract. Any error in spelling, grammar or scientific fact will be reproduced as typed by the author.



Please follow this link for the submissions page: <https://autismcongress2022.org/abstrakty?lang=en>

Deadline

Abstracts must be submitted no later than **11.59pm** on the **30th of April 2022**. Abstracts submitted after the abstract deadline will be rejected. It is possible to modify your abstract until the submission deadline.

Rules for Abstract Submission – the process

1. Online submission only

Authors who wish to submit an abstract (either oral or poster) must do so via the abstract submission page of the congress website (<https://autismcongress2022.org/>). Any abstracts sent by post, fax or e-mail will not be accepted. The registration may be done after abstract acceptance notification (a short delay will be provided after notification).

2. Abstract text

All abstracts must be written in English. The text should lie within the indicated frame on the form. The abstract should contain neither illustrations nor tables. No identifying features such as names of authors, names of participants, hospitals, medical schools, clinics, services, associations, countries or cities may be listed in the title or text of the abstract.

The abstract title and text are limited to 2500 characters (including spaces). A “blind” selection process will be used. Authors’ data is needed for the congress registration and the accepted presentations that will be included in the Book of Abstracts.

3. Disclosure of potential conflict of interest

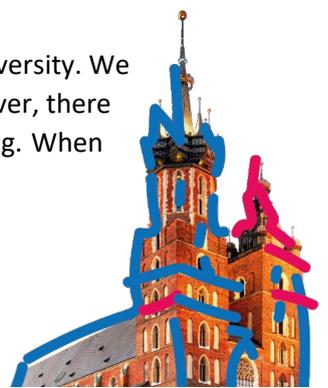
This is a **mandatory requirement** for all authors of all submissions. All authors, including all co-authors, submitting abstracts are required to disclose their sources of contributed support (commercial, public, or private foundation grants).

Authors are also required to signify whether there may be a real or perceived conflict of interest.

Disclosures will be included in the Book of Abstracts and must also take place at the time of presentation (both orally and in writing).

Acceptable language

Autism-Europe and the JIM Foundation operate on the principle of respect for diversity. We feel that it is important to use language that people are comfortable with. However, there are some terms that are likely to cause offense and it is advisable to avoid using. When



submitting abstracts and preparing the presentations and posters, please keep in mind the following guidelines:

Within Autism-Europe, the acceptable terms are: ‘**autistic person/people**’ as the most commonly preferred term by autistic adults, ‘**people on the autism spectrum**’ as the most preferred term amongst autistic adults, families and professionals and ‘**person with autism**’ in order to keep in line with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities that utilises person-first language throughout.

Some people refer to themselves and one another as an autist / autie / aspie. Whilst we accept that people may wish to refer to themselves and each other in this way, it is often less acceptable when used by a ‘neurotypical’ person.

Please do not use the following terms/expressions that are likely to cause offense:

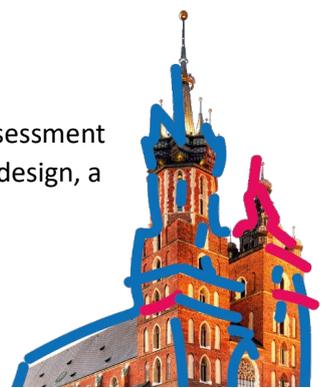
1. Suffers from or is a victim of autism. Consider using the following terms instead:
 - a. is autistic
 - b. is on the autism spectrum
 - c. has autism / an autism spectrum disorder (ASD) / an autism spectrum condition (ASC) (Note: The term ASD is widely used by many professionals, you may prefer to use the term ‘autism spectrum condition’ or ‘on the autism spectrum’ because it avoids the negative connotations of ‘disorder’.)
2. “Kanner’s autism”
3. “Asperger’s syndrome is a rare/ mild form of autism”
4. “Autism is a disease/ illness”: consider using the following instead:
 - a. autism is a disability
 - b. autism is a condition
5. Retarded/ mentally handicapped/ backward: these terms are considered to be derogatory and offensive. Consider using the following terms instead (where it is appropriate to do so):
 - a. people with a learning disability
 - b. people with a developmental disability
 - c. people with an intellectual disability
6. Normally developing children/ adults: consider using the following terms instead:
 - a. neurotypical (Note: This term is only used within the autism community so may not be applicable in, for example, the popular press.)
 - b. typically developing children / adults
 - c. non-autistic children/ adult/ person

Reviewing of abstracts

Each submitted abstract will be reviewed by three individuals. These will include autistic people, researchers, practitioners, members of the congress Scientific Committee, members of Autism-Europe and family members and carers.

Submissions will be scored against three criteria:

1. Quality of the work – For **research abstracts** that could mean an assessment of the scientific methodology – e.g. the use of a randomised control design, a



large sample size, inclusion of the autistic voice in your findings. For **practice abstracts**, that could mean how you have used evidence-based approaches or you designed multidisciplinary service for diagnosis. For a **personal account** it could mean how a number of different perspectives have been brought together in your abstract.

2. Novelty and innovation - For **research abstracts** that could mean that this a new question that has been posed or that your design was based on a consultation with autistic people. For practice abstracts, that could mean you have decided to use technology to reach more of the community or you have developed or adapted a tool not used before in your country. For a personal account it could mean how this has been an often-unheard voice or opinion, or that you have chosen to take a position on a topic that is controversial.
3. Impact on the community or field – For **research abstracts** that could mean that your results have led to, or you have demonstrated a clear route to, positively benefiting the community. For **practice abstracts** that could mean your service has led to more autistic adults into employment or you have trained a large number of new professionals in your region. For **personal abstracts** that could mean your views have been heard by, or you plan for them to be heard by, individuals who decide on policy or that your experience has led to improvements in your life and/or the life of those around you.

Once the reviewers' scores and comments have been received, **those who score above cut off** (agreed by the congress Science Committee) **and who have selected "oral presentation" in the submission phase will be discussed in terms of them making an oral presentation in the programme.** All those remaining will be invited to make a poster presentation.

Those submissions that score below a certain cut off, or that have been flagged by reviewers, will be checked by a member of the congress team to confirm that they should not be included in the congress programme.

Please note, that if you are selected to make a poster presentation, you will have the opportunity to make that in person or online.

If you would like to act as a reviewer for abstract submissions, please email us at: ae.congress2022@jim.org

Notification of abstract selection

Notification of abstract selection will be sent to the presenter by e-mail no later than **15th May 2022.**

Withdrawal

Only the presenter may request the withdrawal of an accepted abstract before **27th May 2022.** Requests for withdrawals must reach the congress organisers in writing by e-mail (ae.congress2022@jim.org). It is the responsibility of the author to check whether the



Congress Organizers have received his/her withdrawal message to avoid the risk of the abstract being printed in the programme.

Submission for an hour-long session

We have held **two hour-long sessions within the programme for submissions from the community about a topic they would like featured in the programme**. This may be a debate, a panel discussion, a workshop, a networking activity or another event that focuses on research, practice, policy or advocacy. Please note that we don't have a budget to pay travel and congress fees for contributors to these sessions, but we will provide support in terms of the room and organisation.

Please choose a topic that is not already included in the congress programme (symposia list above).

In the first stage we would ask that you **email a short description** (less than 100 words) of your idea to ae.congress2022@jim.org who can check that this fits within the conference theme "A Happy Journey Through Life" and is not being covered elsewhere in planned activities for the programme.

You will then be sent guidance on how to submit an application, which will be made by completing a short form. Submissions must be received by **30th of April 2022**.

They will then be deidentified, before being scored and discussed by the congress Science Committee. A shortlist of candidates will be interviewed before the final two are selected for inclusion in the programme. You will hear a response whether you have been successful or not by **31st May 2022**.

All contributors are required to disclose their sources of support (commercial, public, or private foundation grants).

Contributors are also required to signify whether there may be a real or perceived conflict of interest.

Please note that we cannot accept submissions from a commercial entity or an organisation looking to showcase a product or service. If you have any concerns on that matter, please contact us at ae.congress2022@jim.org for guidance.

Presentations at Congress

1. Oral presentation

The time allotted for the presentation of an oral communication is 20 minutes, unless otherwise stated by the Congress organisers.

The sessions for oral presentations will be chaired and moderated to keep presenters to time and allow enough time for questions/discussion.

2. Poster presentations





Specific time-slots will be allocated for the presentation of posters, during which the presenter will be asked to remain near to his/her poster to present and answer questions. If this is not the lead author, then it must be a co-author on the study.

Online poster presentations will be allotted a specific time and the chosen presenter will be provided access to their presentation space, where they can answer questions or present their findings. Please note that these online poster presentations will not be moderated and it is our expectation that the presenter will manage these interactions. Instructions will be provided in advance as to how you access and run these online sessions.

3. **Presentation slides**

Presentation slides should be prepared and posters designed and displayed according to the instructions published on the congress website (<https://autismcongress2022.org/>). Please also refer to the acceptable language guidelines (<https://www.autismeurope.org/about-autism/acceptable-language/>).

4. **Anonymity and Respect**

Anonymity and respectful representation of any person portrayed in any presentation (oral or poster) is mandatory. Supply of the written consent of the person and/or his or her legally authorised representative should be the authors' responsibility. The organisers do not take any responsibility for this.

The Organizers reserve the right to adjust these regulations, especially but not limited to the regulations of the presentations on-site in Cracow for safety reasons.

