

• Eligibility

- Abstracts describing original basic science and clinical work related to the broad area of rheumatic diseases may be submitted.
- An abstract is **ineligible** for consideration if:
 - Reports work that has been accepted or published prior to ArLAR conference in a print or online journal.
 - The abstract contains data that was presented at a scientific meeting more than 12 months earlier.
- Duplicate abstracts from the same study should not be submitted as multiple abstracts. Abstracts that appear as more than one version of a single study will be rejected.
- By submitting your abstract, you agree to present the abstract if it is selected for presentation during an oral or poster abstract presentation. If your abstract can only be presented as a poster, please report this during the submission process.
- Case reports are **NOT** considered appropriate and will not be reviewed, unless it is a rare case and no similar case reports were identified.
- If the abstract reports results of a clinical trial not yet approved by a regulatory agency, you will be required to identify the trial phase.
- Any work with human or animal subjects reported in submitted abstracts must comply with the guiding principles for experimental procedures found in the Declaration of Helsinki of the World Medical Association.
- Please disclose funding resources for this work, including governmental, pharmaceutical, etc. If funded by pharmaceutical company or biotech company then a statement must be added about the role of the study sponsor.
- The reviewers will judge the abstracts according to the scientific or clinical value, relevance to Arab world, suitability of methods to aims, conclusions confirmed by objective results, objectivity of statements, description of methods used, ethics, originality of work, standard of English and overall impression.
- For the young investigators abstracts, this is defined as abstracts submitted by residents, fellows on training or rheumatologists with < 6 year of independent clinical practice.

• Abstract Format and Content

- The abstract limit is 300 words, which excludes the title, names of authors/co-authors, authors' affiliation, spacing and disclosures. However, imported tables and graphics will decrease the character count by 25 words from the total limit allowed. Abstracts exceeding the character limit will be considered "incomplete". Abstracts marked "incomplete" at the close of the submission deadline will be ineligible for consideration.
- Please ensure that your abstract does not contain spelling, grammatical or scientific errors, as it will be reproduced, if accepted, exactly as submitted. No proofreading will be done.
- Please refrain from using acronyms in your abstract titles. Acronyms may remain in the body of the abstract and in the author list.
- Omit all names and geographical references in the body of the abstract. Organize content as follows:
 - **Background:** Background or Statement of Purpose
 - **Methods:** Methods, materials and analytical procedure used
 - **Results:** Summary of the results in sufficient detail to support conclusion
 - **Conclusion:** Conclusions reached (do not state "results will be discussed")

• Abstract Categories

The abstracts are subdivided into categories and topics. The correct category and topic must be selected to ensure correct scoring. The content of the abstract must be topic related.

1. Basic and translational research

01. Genomics, genetic basis of disease and HLA/T cell recognition
02. Adaptive immunity (T cells and B cells) in rheumatic diseases
03. Innate immunity in rheumatic diseases
04. Cytokines and inflammatory mediators
05. Cartilage, synovium and osteoimmunology
06. Rheumatoid arthritis - etiology, pathogenesis and animal models
07. Spondyloarthritis - etiology, pathogenesis and animal models
08. SLE, Sjögren's and APS - etiology, pathogenesis and animal models
09. Scleroderma, myositis and related syndromes - etiology, pathogenesis and animal models
10. Basic science in paediatric rheumatology

2. Clinical topics by disease

11. Rheumatoid arthritis - prognosis, predictors and outcome
12. Rheumatoid arthritis - comorbidity and clinical aspects
13. Rheumatoid arthritis - anti-TNF therapy
14. Rheumatoid arthritis - other biologic treatment
15. Rheumatoid arthritis - non biologic treatment
16. SLE, Sjögren's and APS - treatment
17. SLE, Sjögren's and APS - clinical aspects (other than treatment)
18. Vasculitis
19. Scleroderma, myositis and related syndromes
20. Spondylarthropathies - treatment
21. Spondylarthropathies - clinical aspects (other than treatment)
22. Psoriatic arthritis
23. Osteoarthritis
24. Osteoporosis
25. Crystal diseases, metabolic bone diseases and bone diseases other than osteoporosis
26. Infection-related rheumatic diseases
27. Fibromyalgia
28. Back pain, mechanical musculoskeletal problems, local soft tissue disorders
29. Paediatric rheumatology
30. Other orphan diseases

2. Clinical topics by area of research

31. Diagnostics and imaging procedures
32. Epidemiology, health services and outcome research
33. Rehabilitation
34. Education

• Abstract Submission Deadline

The deadline for abstract submission is **15 December 2017**. Any abstract submitted after the deadline will not be reviewed.

• Abstract Processing Fee

No fees for processing the abstract.

• Abstract Disclosure Statement

All authors must disclose any relevant financial relationship(s) at the time of abstract submission. Examples include, but are not limited to:

1. None: has no relevant financial relationship to disclose
2. Stock options or bond holdings in a for-profit corporation or self-directed pension plan
3. Research grants
4. Employment (full or part-time)
5. Ownership or partnership
6. Consulting fees or other remuneration
7. Non-remunerative positions of influence such as officer, board member, trustee or public spokesperson
8. Speakers' bureau
9. Other

Disclosures collected at the time of submission will be published in the scientific program, abstract supplement and on the ARLAR website. Abstracts will not be accepted without proper completion of the conflict of interest/disclosure section on the abstract submission form. The abstract review process is blinded; therefore, the disclosure information you provide will not influence the review of your abstract.

• Abstract Review and Notification

- After the submission deadline, completed abstracts will be peer-reviewed. "Incomplete" abstracts will not be considered. To ensure the integrity of the review process, revisions to abstracts will not be accepted after the submission deadline – no exceptions.
- Abstracts will be peer-reviewed by a minimum of two members of scientific committee, according to subject categories. All reviewers are required to sign a confidentiality agreement.
- All abstracts will be reviewed without knowledge of the author(s), institution(s) or disclosure information.
- Accepted abstracts will be selected as either a short oral presentation or a poster presentation.
- **The presenting author is the only author who will receive notification** and is the point of contact for all co-authors. **Presenting authors will be notified by the beginning of January 2018** and are responsible for notifying all abstract co-authors.