

How to Write Better Abstracts

Nikita Nikita, MD

Postdoctoral Fellow in the Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center

Pamela Walter, MFA

Office for Professional Writing, Publishing, and Communication

What You'll Do in This Session

- Explain why abstracts are important
- Define what makes abstracts helpful
- Examine journal and conference guidelines
- Use simple tools to design better abstracts

Explain why abstracts are important

- Who reads abstracts?
- What are they used for?
- How do you use them?

Define what makes an abstract helpful

- What do you appreciate about an abstract?
- What frustrates you?
- What are some characteristics of a helpful abstract? Unhelpful?

Adaptation of avian influenza A (H6N1) virus from avian to human receptor-binding preference.

Abstract

The receptor-binding specificity of influenza A viruses is a major determinant for the host tropism of the virus, which enables interspecies transmission. In 2013, the first human case of infection with avian influenza A (H6N1) virus was reported in Taiwan. We propose that the receptor-binding properties of Taiwan-isolated H6 HAs have undergone three major stages: initially avian receptor-binding preference, secondarily obtaining human receptor-binding capacity, and recently human receptor-binding preference, which has been confirmed by receptor-binding assessment of three representative virus isolates. To gather evidence concerning the epidemic potential of H6 subtype viruses, we performed comprehensive analysis of receptor-binding properties of Taiwan-isolated H6 HAs from 1972 to 2013. Mutagenesis work revealed that E190V and G228S substitutions are important to acquire the human receptor-binding capacity, and the P186L substitution could reduce the binding to avian receptor. Further structural analysis revealed how the P186L substitution in the receptor-binding site of HA determines the receptor-binding preference change. We conclude that the human-infecting H6N1 evolved into a human receptor preference.

KEYWORDS: H6N1; crystal structure; hemagglutinin; receptor binding

[EMBO J.](#) 2015 Jun 12;34(12):1661-73. doi: 10.15252/embj.201590960. Epub 2015 May 4.

[Wang F](#)¹, [Qi J](#)², [Bi Y](#)², [Zhang W](#)², [Wang M](#)¹, [Zhang B](#)³, [Wang M](#)⁴, [Liu J](#)⁴, [Yan J](#)², [Shi Y](#)⁵, [Gao GF](#)⁶.

An occupational perspective in hand therapy: A scoping review

Abstract

Introduction: There have been calls for the occupational therapy profession to realign with its values around occupation. However, the profession faces challenges in practice areas that have historically been underpinned by a biomechanical approach, such as hand therapy. The aim of this scoping review was to describe what is known about an occupational perspective in the hand therapy literature.

Methods: This scoping review utilized a recognized five-step approach. A search was conducted in four databases for papers published between 2005 and 2016. Numerical and thematic analyses were employed, using the Canadian Practice Process Framework as a theoretical framework.

Results: Fifty papers were included in the scoping review. Six themes were identified: the centrality of occupation; inconsistencies in terminology; where in the occupational therapy process?; informal discussion as a key occupational strategy; occupational therapists' expectations of patients; and a bottom-up approach focusing on biomechanical strategies to implementing the plan.

Conclusion: Whilst there has been some integration of an occupational perspective into hand therapy literature, there are still challenges. Inconsistent terminology, the lack of an occupational perspective throughout the occupational therapy process and a bottom-up approach to interventions all demonstrate the continuing tensions between the biomechanical approach and an occupational perspective.

Keywords [Hand therapy](#), [occupational therapy](#), [occupational perspective](#)
[Samantha Burley](#), [Amelia Di Tommaso](#), [Ruth Cox](#)

First Published February 23, 2018

Abstracts should (MUST ALWAYS INCLUDE)

- State the thesis or purpose of the work.
- Show a gap or novelty.
- Summarize using key words and phrases.
- Mirror the structure of the body of the text.
- Give brief background information for context.
- Follow the submission guidelines.

Abstracts should NOT (AVOID AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE)

- Refer excessively to other works.
- Use acronyms (with RARE exceptions)
- Add any information not in the original work.
- Define terms.

Use a simple tool to design better abstracts

Prompt	Write a Sentence
Introduction: Reason for writing/Gap/Novelty/Why readers need this	
Purpose statement:	
Methods: How you approached collecting findings	
Results: Findings	
Discussion: Implications/Conclusion/Novelty/What gap is left?	
Keywords	

Mark the Introduction, Methods, Results, and Conclusion:

The receptor-binding specificity of influenza A viruses is a major determinant for the host tropism of the virus, which enables interspecies transmission. In 2013, the first human case of infection with avian influenza A (H6N1) virus was reported in Taiwan. We propose that the receptor-binding properties of Taiwan-isolated H6 HAs have undergone three major stages: initially avian receptor-binding preference, secondarily obtaining human receptor-binding capacity, and recently human receptor-binding preference, which has been confirmed by receptor-binding assessment of three representative virus isolates. To gather evidence concerning the epidemic potential of H6 subtype viruses, we performed comprehensive analysis of receptor-binding properties of Taiwan-isolated H6 HAs from 1972 to 2013. Mutagenesis work revealed that E190V and G228S substitutions are important to acquire the human receptor-binding capacity, and the P186L substitution could reduce the binding to avian receptor. Further structural analysis revealed how the P186L substitution in the receptor-binding site of HA determines the receptor-binding preference change. We conclude that the human-infecting H6N1 evolved into a human receptor preference.

Adhere to Submission Guidelines

Meet the word count.

Simplify using the active voice: Who did what?

Trim this sentence without changing the meaning:

It is possible that novelty in evolution may be introduced by the acquisition of new elements at an early point.

20 words

A possible rewrite

Early acquisition of new elements may introduce novelty in evolution.

10 words

Adobe is free for Jeffersonians:

<https://www.jefferson.edu/adobe.html>

Assignment for 3 points: DUE November 24

- Submit an abstract from your own research

OR

- Email Fnu.Nikita@Jefferson.edu for a manuscript
- Get feedback from seasoned reviewers



Jefferson

Philadelphia University +
Thomas Jefferson University

HOME OF SIDNEY KIMMEL MEDICAL COLLEGE