Abstract submission regulations and instructions

Regular abstract submission deadline
7 April 2026, 21:00hrs CEST
(CEST = Central European Summer Time)

Late-breaking abstract deadline
4 June 2026, 21:00hrs CEST
(CEST = Central European Summer Time)

Submission methods and deadlines

All abstracts for the ESMO Gastrointestinal Cancers Congress 2026, including preliminary versions of those intended for late-breaking abstract status, must be submitted by the deadline of **21:00hrs CEST** (Central European Summer Time) on **Tuesday, 7 April 2026**.

The deadline for the submission of finalised late-breaking abstracts is **21:00 CEST** (Central European Summer Time) on **Thursday, 4 June 2026**.

Abstract submission is free of charge and must be completed online only via the ESMO Gastrointestinal Cancers 2026 website ("Abstracts" section).

Abstracts submitted by e-mail or post will NOT be accepted.

Submission categories

- Colon cancer
- Hepatocellular and non-biliary liver cancer
- Rare GI cancers (GEP-NETs, endocrine pancreatic, duodenal cancer, anal cancer, etc)
- Rectal cancer
- Upper digestive – Biliary, ampullary and pancreatic cancer
- Upper digestive – Esophageal and gastric cancers
- Miscellaneous

Submission regulations and instructions

1. By submitting an abstract intended for presentation at ESMO Gastrointestinal Cancers 2026, **the first author** (= presenter) warrants that the material has **neither been, nor will be, previously published** in any publication in peer review setting **or presented** at a meeting of any other scientific organisation prior to the ESMO Gastrointestinal Cancers Congress 2026.

Encore abstracts will **NOT** be accepted. However, abstracts containing **updated data** with respect to a previous presentation may be submitted to ESMO Gastrointestinal Cancers 2026. In this case, additional information must be given specifying clearly which new data will be presented, for example final analysis of primary endpoint(s) or intermediate statistical analysis. Authors must at the same time also supply information regarding the prior presentation for identification and comparison purposes, indicating the name of the meeting, year and/or publication number. Violation of this policy will result in a rejection of the submitted abstract.

2. The first author (= presenter) must be over 18 years of age and may be, but does not need to be, an ESMO member; however, only ESMO members in good standing (ie membership fees paid) with the society may submit more than one abstract as first and presenting author, but present a maximum of two abstracts. See details below in point 3.9.
A non-ESMO member may submit and present one abstract only as first and presenting author.
ESMO membership must be active ten (10) working days prior to the abstract submission deadline. Please visit esmo.org to check eligibility criteria and benefits, and to complete the Membership application.

3. **With the submission of an abstract, and on behalf of him/herself and all co-authors, the first author (= presenter) undertakes to:**

3.1. Release full copyright to the European Society for Medical Oncology (ESMO) and give full permission for the **abstract**, if accepted, to be **published** in the **ESMO Gastrointestinal Cancers 2026 Abstract book** in printed and/or electronic format, as well as published online on the ESMO and publisher websites; and additionally, if selected, that presentation data may be fully or partially included in other sessions including but not limited to the ESMO Gastrointestinal Cancers Congress 2026 highlights sessions.

3.2. Confirm that he/she does not infringe any domestic or foreign Intellectual Property Rights, such as but not limited to patents, copyrights, trade secrets, or any other rights belonging to or administered by a third-party.

3.3. Warrant that he/she is an investigator with a substantial involvement in the study presented in the abstract.

Submission regulations and instructions, cont.

3.4. Accept responsibility for the accuracy and confidentiality (see corresponding paragraph) of the submitted abstract.

3.5. Confirm that all authors are aware of, and agree to, the content of the abstract and support the data therein; furthermore, the first author will be responsible for obtaining, and, upon request, showing proof that all authors have given their permission for the submission of the abstract and content therein as well as for the potential inclusion of the abstract in the official ESMO communication activities.

3.6. Make all reasonable efforts to ensure the anonymity of any patient discussed in the abstracts.

3.7. Be the **contact person** for all correspondence concerning the abstract and to keep co-authors duly informed about its status.

3.8. **Register for the Congress, and present** his/her/their abstract **onsite** if selected for presentation in the official ESMO Gastrointestinal Cancers 2026 programme as Proffered Paper (oral presentation), Rapid Oral or Poster **OR register and display online** if selected for ePoster. Registration must be completed using the same email address as that given during abstract submission. The first author may nominate a co-author to **register and present** onsite an abstract in his/her place provided that the replacement presenter is also a listed co-author **independent of the sponsor** (unless for data generated as mentioned in point 3.10 below). The presenting author or the designated replacement presenter must be registered by **15 June**. Should the Presenter (or designated replacement presenter) not be registered by the given deadline, the abstract will be **excluded from presentation in the ESMO Gastrointestinal Cancers 2026 programme, and removed from the online programme and publication in the ESMO Gastrointestinal Cancers 2026 Abstract Book**.

3.9. The presenting author is required to register for the Congress with a full access registration. Please note that badges for Exhibitors, Exhibition Visitors, Private Meetings, Industry Satellite, and Third-Party Media are not considered valid for this purpose.

3.10. The maximum number of abstract presentations throughout the ESMO Gastrointestinal Cancers Congress 2026 by the same **first and presenting author** is two (2), with options as follows:

- 1 Proffered Paper (oral) plus 1 Rapid Oral
- 1 Proffered Paper (oral) plus 1 Poster
- 2 Rapid Orals
- 1 Rapid Oral plus 1 Poster or ePoster
- 2 Posters

This regulation applies to both regular and Late-Breaking Abstracts, regardless of final scheduling in a Proffered Paper or a Rapid Oral.
Any additional Proffered Paper, Rapid Oral or Poster must be presented by a listed co-author independent of the sponsor (unless for data generated as mentioned in point 3.11).
This regulation does not apply to ePosters.

3.11. An author employed by the abstract sponsor or by a company (including pharmaceutical, diagnostic, data or AI companies) cannot act as the presenter or corresponding author of any work related to clinical or translational data, defined as data/parameters captured in interventional clinical studies (phase I-IV) and observational or real-world data series, involving patients. The presenter must be an independent, practising physician or independent investigator listed in the abstract author string. Authors employed by the sponsor or a company are allowed to present preclinical data and/or abstracts classified as “Trials in Progress”. When the presenting investigator represents an independent entity contracted by the sponsor, this should be disclosed in the abstract submission process.

3.12. Certify that the study reported in the abstract will not be presented as such during ESMO Gastrointestinal Cancers 2026 at any industry-related satellite symposia prior to its presentation during the official ESMO Gastrointestinal Cancers 2026 official programme.

3.13. Indicate whether he/she agrees to participate in the official **ESMO communication activities** if the abstract is selected for coverage by ESMO, and guarantee he/she is not subject to any restrictions by the institute he/she belongs to or by the scientific journals he/she may have submitted his/her research to.

3.14. The first author must further confirm his/her presence at the official ESMO communication activities if selected; however, he/she may nominate a co-author to participate in the ESMO communication activities in his/her place provided that the replacement presenter is also a listed co-author independent of the sponsor who has also made a substantive contribution to the work. The name of the replacement must be submitted by e-mail to the ESMO Press Office (pressoffice@esmo.org) within thirty-six (36) hours of invitation acceptance and must confirm his/her attendance at the ESMO communication activities.

3.15. Declare the name of the **legal entity** responsible for the governance, coordination and running of the study.

3.16. Declare how the study detailed in the abstract was **funded**, for example by a pharmaceutical, biotech or other commercial company or by a Foundation or academic group, and to name the organisation(s) funding the study.

3.17. Ensure that **all authors** complete the **“Declaration of Interest”** statement identifying any financial/non-financial interest in products or processes involved in their activities, related or not, to the work submitted in the abstract. This includes stock ownership, membership on an advisory board or board of directors, corporate-sponsored research, or other substantive relationships such as employment with a pharmaceutical companyor any other organisation. Should no valid disclosure statement be provided at submission, or in the case of statements exceeding the regulation

length not be advised by the submission date to programme@esmo.org, the author(s) in question may, at the discretion of the ESMO Gastrointestinal Cancers 2026 Scientific Committee, be removed from the author string without further recourse to the authors.

Submission regulations and instructions, cont.

3.18. Guarantee the scientific independence of the author or principle investigator (whichever is going to be the corresponding or presenting author) when presenting his/her data, and confirm that he/she has full control over the text of the submitted abstract, subsequent presentation (slides, poster or ePoster) and content of the press release prepared by ESMO (if part of the official ESMO communication activities), and that he/she has not been influenced by any third party, including the sponsor of the study (unless for data generated as mentioned in point 3.10 above).

3.19. Indicate where applicable the number of the trial protocol (NIH or European equivalent) and the release date (when it was obtained).

3.20. Ensure that for all studies involving human or animal subjects, permission has been obtained from the relevant regulatory authority and that properly informed consent, where appropriate, has been given.

3.21. Indicate whether the abstract is submitted in association with an application for an ESMO Merit Award.

3.22. Acknowledge any editorial assistance in the writing of the abstract that was provided by a third party, providing the name of the writer and the company who provided this service.

3.23. The use of generative artificial intelligence (AI) and AI-assisted technologies is allowed in the writing process of an initial abstract draft. However, application of AI technology should be done with human oversight and control, and authors should carefully review and edit the final abstract, for which they assume complete responsibility and accountability. AI and AI-assisted technologies should not be listed as an author or co-author, or be cited as an author. Authorship implies responsibilities and tasks that can only be attributed to and performed by humans.

The above guidance only refers to the writing process. When AI tools are used in order to generate and analyse data as part of the research process, their specifications should be described in the Methods section of the abstract/presentation.

This declaration does not apply to the use of basic tools for checking grammar, spelling, references etc. If there is nothing to disclose, there is no need to add a statement.

3.24. Acknowledge and accept that experts invited by ESMO will select full or partial data and slides from Proffered Paper or Rapid Oral presentations for the purposes of discussion, and/or may also select full or partial data, slides or entire posters to show and discuss during other sessions including but not limited to the ESMO Gastrointestinal Cancers Congress 2026 highlights sessions. Further usage of copyright protected content is governed as indicated under the "Copyright section" of the present Abstract submission regulations and instructions.

4. If the first author wishes to **withdraw** his/her abstract from ESMO Gastrointestinal Cancers 2026 after outcome notifications have been made available, he/she must submit a written request **within thirty-six (36) hours** to programme@esmo.org. Any abstract withdrawal requests made after thirty-six (36) hours will be assessed on a case by case basis.

5. Only minor **corrections** to the body of accepted abstracts may be possible if advised in writing to the ESMO Scientific Programmes Department at programme@esmo.org by **Monday, 4 May 2026**. After this date, no changes will be possible at all unless requested by ESMO. Once the abstract has been published, no corrigenda will be considered unless the data published in the original abstract are proved to have a relevant and negative impact on the treatment of patients and/or the future of any related research.
For changes related to the author string please see point 18 below.

6. Each section of the online abstract submission system must be completed. Authors failing to give all information required in the online submission system will not have their abstract considered by the ESMO Gastrointestinal Cancers 2026 Scientific Committee.

7. Once each step is completed, the author must go to the 'Preview and Finish' section and click '**Finish Submission'** in order to complete the process. Without clicking this option, the abstract will not be considered as submitted and will not be forwarded to the ESMO Gastrointestinal Cancers 2026 Scientific Committee for consideration.

8. Abstracts, with the exception of Trial in Progress (see relevant section below), should be structured in such a way as to include the following four (4) sections:

1. Background: A short introduction indicating the rationale of the study
2. Methods: A brief description of pertinent methodological procedures
3. Results: A summary of the results of the research
4. Conclusions: A statement of the main conclusions

9. The title of the abstract should include significant words that reflect the content of the abstract but not refer to the study results or conclusions. The ESMO Gastrointestinal Cancers 2026 Scientific Committee reserves the right to correct the title format without further recourse to the authors.

10. Commercial names must not be used in the title of the abstract. Compounds should be mentioned with the generic name in lower case. Commercial names are admitted in the text, with the ® symbol (provided the trademark is registered), and if in brackets following the generic name, i.e. 'generic

(Commercial®)'. The ESMO Gastrointestinal Cancers 2026 Scientific Committee reserves the right to substitute commercial names with generic names where necessary without further recourse to the authors.

Submission regulations and instructions, cont.

11. The name(s) of the legal entity/entities responsible for the governance, coordination and running of the study detailed in the abstract, and the name(s) of the organisation(s) providing funding must be provided. This information will be published with the abstract.

12. Abbreviations may be used in the title and text of abstracts if they are defined. Terms must be spelt out in full at their first mention and followed with the abbreviation in parentheses. Particular care should be taken to identify complex chemotherapeutic regimens.

13. The **character limit** for all submitted abstracts is set at **2,000, excluding spaces**. This limit includes characters entered in the title, abstract body and table fields but not the author names and institutions.

14. Illustrations and graphs are not permitted. One brief and clear **table** counting for a default of 225 characters is accepted; however, the table itself must not be longer than 600 characters. More than one table may not be submitted under the guise of Table 1.1, 1.2 etc.

15. The **maximum number of authors** allowed per abstract is limited to **twenty (20)**. Mailing addresses, academic degrees and professional positions such as Medical Director, CEO, CMO etc. must NOT be mentioned.

16. The names of all listed authors will be published in the order provided during submission. In exceptional cases, **a maximum of one (1) new co-author**, or, if strictly necessary, two (2) new co-authors may be added to the original author string, as long as they are accompanied by full "Declaration of Interests" statements. Changes may be requested in writing to the ESMO Scientific Programmes Department (programme@esmo.org) by **Monday, 4 May 2026**. Any requests for changes to the author string made after this time will not be included in the ESMO Gastrointestinal Cancers 2026 Abstract Book or online programme. Once the abstract has been published, no corrigenda will be possible.

17. Authors must select the appropriate abstract submission category, however, the ESMO Gastrointestinal Cancers 2026 Scientific Committee reserves the right to re-categorise abstracts without further recourse to the authors.

18. Authors must select their preferred choice of presentation: Proffered Paper, Rapid Oral, Poster or ePoster; however, the decision of the ESMO Gastrointestinal Cancers 2026 Scientific Committee will be final.

19. The use of good English and proof-reading is essential. Once the abstract is submitted, online changes, corrections or rewording will not be possible. The ESMO Gastrointestinal Cancers 2026 Scientific Committee reserves the right to reject abstracts which are presented in poor English or to request an immediate revision by the first author.

20. Supplementary data such as manuscripts will not be accepted or forwarded to the ESMO Gastrointestinal Cancers 2026 Scientific Committee.

21. Abstracts on **case reports** will be **rejected**.

Presentation and publication of accepted abstracts

The ESMO Gastrointestinal Cancers 2026 Scientific Committee will select abstracts for presentation during the Congress and determine the format of the presentations based on the following possibilities:

- **Proffered Paper** – Oral presentation of original data of superior quality, followed by expert discussion and perspectives.
- **Rapid Oral** – Short oral presentation of good quality data, followed by expert discussion and perspectives.
- **Poster** – Paper poster presentation for review and discussion onsite. Presenting authors must attend the Congress in person to represent their work. Preparation of an ePoster is also mandatory for inclusion in the Congress Virtual Platform and onsite digital screens.
- **E-Poster** – Electronic poster in PDF format for inclusion in the Congress Virtual Platform and onsite digital screens. Presenting authors of ePosters are not required to attend the Congress in person to represent their work. Paper posters are not to be prepared, and poster boards will not be provided.

Accepted abstracts, including late-breaking abstracts, will be published post-Congress, online only, in the ESMO Gastrointestinal Cancers 2026 Abstract Book, a supplement to the official ESMO journal, ***Annals of Oncology.***

Detailed instructions for the preparation of slide presentations, posters and ePosters will be made available on the ESMO Gastrointestinal Cancers 2026 website ("Information for Presenters" section) along with scheduling notices.

Publication schedule of accepted abstracts

Details regarding the publication of accepted abstracts will be available online in due course.

Late-breaking abstracts (LBA)

Late-breaking abstracts may be submitted for high quality, new research findings from prospective interventional clinical trials or observational series (large real world data sets) or novel technologies with major implications for clinical practice and/or understanding and targeting of disease processes.

Only abstracts for which no conclusive data are available at the time of the abstract submission deadline of 7 April 2026 will be considered for late-breaking status. The work must not have been previously published in any publication in a peer review setting or presented at a meeting of any other scientific organisation prior to the ESMO Gastrointestinal Cancers Congress 2026.

The final late-breaking abstract deadline of **4 June 2026** is under no circumstances to be considered as an extension of the general submission deadline.

Late-breaking abstract submission instructions and review process:

- A **preliminary abstract** indicating the data expected to be available by the late-breaking abstract deadline must be submitted online by 7 April 2026 as an "**intent to submit a late-breaking abstract**". The preliminary abstract must include the title, first author with full contact details and Declaration of Interest, background, methods, expected results and expected conclusions.

- The abstract length must not exceed the standard abstract length of 2'000 characters, excluding spaces. (Please see details in the general abstract submission instructions and regulations).

- The ESMO Gastrointestinal Cancers 2026 Scientific Committee will review the "Intent to submit late-breaking abstracts" and will determine if they can be identified as potential late-breaking abstracts.

- First authors receiving a positive outcome of this first review will be required to submit online the entire abstract, including final author string, results and conclusions plus any table (if applicable) by the late-breaking abstract deadline.

- All late-breaking abstract submissions must follow the standard submission regulations and instructions as outlined above.

- The ESMO Gastrointestinal Cancers 2026 Scientific Committee will re-consider the final abstract to determine whether it will be accepted as a late-breaking abstract for the ESMO Gastrointestinal Cancers Congress 2026. A decision will be made between the following three options:

    - **Oral presentation:** Oral presentations by authors presenting original data of superior quality, presented in a Proffered Paper session or Presidential Symposium.
    - **Rapid Oral:** Short oral presentations by authors presenting original data of good quality, presented in a Rapid Oral session.
    - **Rejected:** Late-breaking abstracts that do not meet the criteria for Proffered Paper or Rapid Oral presentation will not be accepted for presentation and will not be published.

- If a preliminary abstract marked for late-breaking submission is not updated by the late-breaking abstract deadline, the entire abstract will be automatically rejected.

Trial in Progress abstracts

Trial in Progress (TiP) abstracts in all phases of clinical research (phases I to III) may be submitted to the ESMO Gastrointestinal Cancers Congress 2026.

It is expected that abstracts submitted as Trial in Progress are ongoing trials that have not reached any protocol-specified endpoints for analysis and consequently will only require the completion of two (2) sections:

- Background
- Trial design

Notes:

- **Recruitment** must have already begun or have been completed by the abstract submission deadline of 7 April 2026.
- Abstracts including **results or preliminary data** will be **rejected**.
- Trial in Progress abstracts can be accepted for **Poster and/or ePoster presentation only**.
- **Encore TiP abstracts will not be accepted**.

Abstracts will be reviewed by the ESMO Gastrointestinal Cancers 2026 Scientific Committee and considered on the merits of the scientific and clinical rationale of the trial.

Embargo and confidentiality policy

Data and information included in the accepted abstracts are under embargo until the relevant embargo release date cited in the "Publication schedule for accepted abstracts".

Data and information beyond what is included in all accepted abstracts, for example full data sets, may only be made public at the start of the official programme session during which the study is presented.

Abstracts accepted for presentation at the ESMO Gastrointestinal Cancers Congress 2026 must be considered confidential by the author, co-authors, institute(s), research sponsor(s) and ESMO until publicly released in connection with the ESMO Gastrointestinal Cancers Congress 2026.

In the event that any relevant party, including but not limited to, author, co-authors, institute(s), research sponsor(s), plans to issue a press release prior to presentation at the ESMO Gastrointestinal Cancers Congress 2026, ESMO requests that it adheres to the Qualitative Sample Press Release format by summarising abstract data in a qualitative rather than quantitative way, and avoiding interpretations about the implications of the data for clinical practice.

The relevant party is to submit to ESMO (programme@esmo.org, cc: media@esmo.org) written notification of the intention to issue a press release in advance of the release itself.

A note stating that full data has been submitted for presentation at the ESMO Gastrointestinal Cancers Congress 2026 should be added in the press release.

ESMO is available to provide guidance and feedback for the qualitative press release.

If the press release includes significantly more information than ESMO's recommendations, the abstract's placement in the ESMO Gastrointestinal Cancers Congress 2026 is subject to change.

ESMO reserves the right to share material under embargo with journalists on the authorised ESMO media list who have agreed to respect the ESMO embargo policy.

Copyright

ESMO holds copyright of all abstracts accepted for the ESMO Gastrointestinal Cancers Congress 2026 and therefore abstracts cannot be made public prior to official publication.

ESMO copyright is lifted only if the abstract is not accepted for inclusion in the official ESMO Gastrointestinal Cancers Congress 2026 programme and/or publication in the Congress Abstract Book.

The submission of abstracts accepted for the ESMO Gastrointestinal Cancers Congress 2026 to subsequent conferences, organised either by ESMO or third-parties, requires the permission of ESMO as copyright holder. Requests must be addressed to programme@esmo.org.

Commercial data mining of the ESMO Gastrointestinal Cancers Congress 2026 published abstracts requires the permission of ESMO and approval must be sought before inception of the project. Queries should be addressed to programme@esmo.org.

ESMO is the exclusive owner of Intellectual Property Rights related to ESMO events and any ESMO activity, including its trademarks. In particular, the ESMO logo and the ESMO Gastrointestinal Cancers Congress 2026 logo are protected trademarks owned by ESMO. The official Congress slide template provided by ESMO is provided for use during the ESMO Gastrointestinal Cancers Congress 2026. Any further use of these slides or ESMO trademarks is prohibited.

Consequently, individuals shall not use slides, or any other material (digital or non-digital), displaying the ESMO logo or the ESMO Gastrointestinal Cancers Congress 2026 logo, or any other ESMO trademark at or for any (subsequent) third-party event, regardless of format (live or online). This includes any review or discussions where individuals have been asked to collate data and provide expert opinion.

The ONLY exceptions to this rule are the use of slides including ESMO trademark, presented during the ESMO Gastrointestinal Cancers Congress 2026, where experts, invited by ESMO, will select data and slides from Proffered Paper or Rapid Oral presentations for the purposes of discussion.

ESMO Merit Award

A restricted number of ESMO Merit Awards for the ESMO Gastrointestinal Cancers Congress 2026 are available, upon application, to first authors (=presenters) who submit abstracts considered to be deserving of recognition. Candidates must be ESMO Members under the age of 40 and indicate that they wish to be considered for a Merit Award at the time of submitting the abstract. The selection will be made by the Scientific Committee on a competitive basis considering the scientific merit of the abstract.

The application for an ESMO Merit Award must be completed during the abstract submission process. A link will be provided in the submission confirmation. Applicants will be required to reply to the following questions:

- How relevant to your current practice are the topics presented at this Congress?
- Have you attended any event on a similar topic in the last 3 years?
- How will attendance at this Congress help with your professional development?
- How can your abstract contribute to the topics covered at this Congress?
- Have you recently been awarded an ESMO Award? If yes, for which event?

And to provide the following documents:

- A copy of the submitted abstract (NOTE: The applicant must be the first and presenting author)
- A readable photocopy of either identity card or passport
- A short curriculum vitae (max. 2 pages)

Incomplete applications will not be considered.

ESMO will provide the recipients with a subsidised travel ticket, subsidised accommodation and Congress registration.