

**RCN Annual International Nursing Research Conference 2008
Scientific Committee Report**

In total in 2008, 473 abstracts were submitted for review.

Of these, 441 (93%) were submitted for a poster or concurrent presentation and independently reviewed blind by three members of the International Scientific Advisory Panel (ISAP). There was unanimous consensus in 219 cases. The remaining 222 abstracts were reviewed by the Scientific Committee. The Scientific Committee overturned 20% of ISAP recommendations where there was a 2 to1 majority in both the initial accept and in the initial reject categories leading to an overall acceptance rate of 69% (Table 1).

Table 1 - RCN Annual International Nursing Research Conference 2008				
Abstracts Submitted		No. accepted	No. rejected	% accepted
Symposia	24	23	1	96%
Workshops	8	6	2	75%
Concurrent / Poster	441	215 90	136	69%
TOTAL	473	334	139	71%

Figure 1 illustrates the annual acceptance rate by mode of presentation by year from 2005 – 2008 (drawing on data on Appendix 1).

Each year lessons learned from the review process are incorporated into the following year's processes in order to continually improve the quality of the scientific programme and the experiences of the authors who submit abstracts.

For 2009 ISAP members will be further encouraged to provide objective feedback to authors based on the review criteria. Where an author has offered to present either a poster or a concurrent paper, ISAP members who recommend acceptance will be asked to advise on the most appropriate mode of presentation.

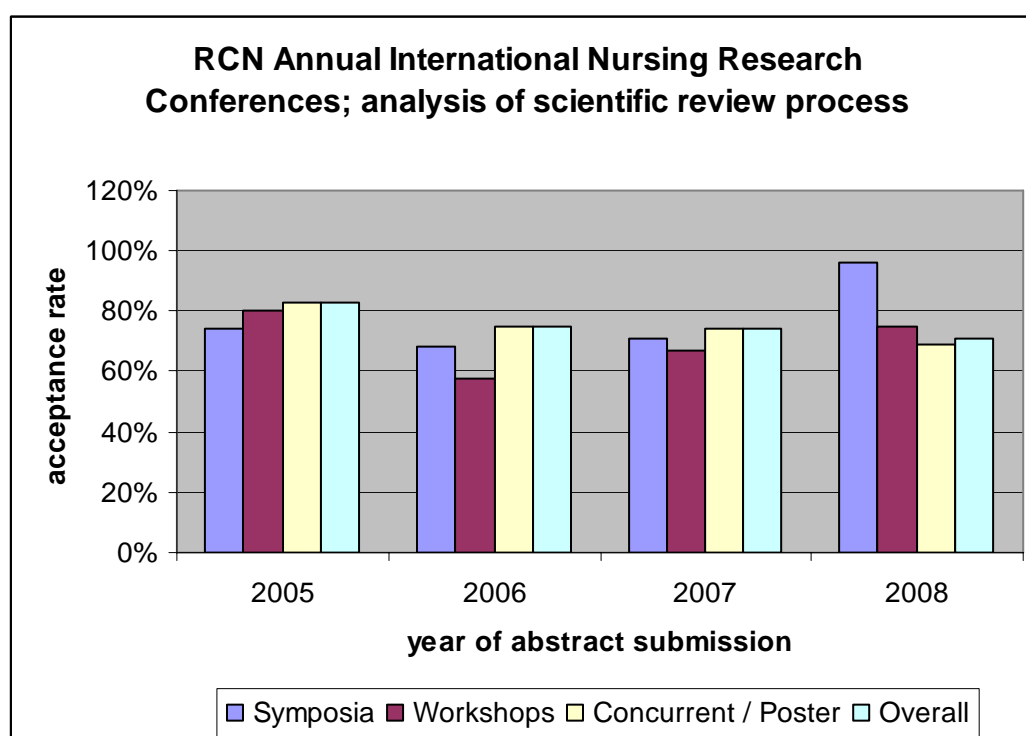
The 2009 criteria will be refined to incorporate the following:

1. An abstract will not be accepted if data has not already been collected
2. The title should be short and clearly declare the content of the abstract
3. Abstracts will be expected to be structured according to the IMRD template
4. Proper reporting of statistics will be compulsory
5. Blind means blind and authors should not explicitly cite their own work
6. Salami slicing will be discouraged and the World Association of Medical Editors guidance will be applied.

An online 'review your own abstract' system will be promoted to assist authors.

Visual presentations with expert review (ViPERs) will be introduced for the first time in 2009.

Figure 1 : Annual acceptance rate by Mode of Presentation



Appendix 1

RCN Annual International Nursing Research Conference 2007 - DUNDEE				
Abstracts Submitted		No. accepted	No. rejected	% accepted
Symposia	28	20	8	71%
Workshops	12	8	4	67%
Concurrent / Poster	495	270	128	74%
		97		
TOTAL	535	395	140	74%

RCN Annual International Nursing Research Conference 2006 - YORK				
Abstracts Submitted		No. accepted	No. rejected	% accepted
Symposia	25	17	8	68%
Workshops	12	7	5	58%
Concurrent / Poster	538	298	132	75%
		108		
TOTAL	575	430	145	75%

RCN Annual International Nursing Research Conference 2005 - BELFAST				
Abstracts Submitted		No. accepted	No. rejected	% accepted
Symposia	31	23	8	74%
Workshops	5	4	1	80%
Concurrent / Poster	531	293	89	83%
		149		
TOTAL	567	469	98	83%