

# BSAS 2024

9 – 11 April 2024 | Assembly Buildings, Belfast

## Author Guidelines for Submission of Abstracts



## Introduction

Authors are invited to submit their abstracts for inclusion in the BSAS 2024 conference, using the guidelines below. A peer review of the papers will be performed, and accepted papers will be published in open access indexed Proceedings of BSAS 2024, published by [animal - Science Proceedings](#).

Selected abstracts will be allocated into the conference programme as posters or oral presentations, a representative (presenting author) is expected to register for the conference to present the work.

Thank you for submitting your work for BSAS 2024, if you have any questions, please email [bsasconference@abbeyuk.com](mailto:bsasconference@abbeyuk.com).

Once you have read the following guidelines, please [click here](#) to submit your work.

## ABSTRACT FORMAT

### Stipulations of submitting abstracts:

*Submissions must be between 450 and 900 words. Please note the guidelines below..*

GENERAL GUIDELINES	Abstract
Maximum word count (without tables or figures)	900
Suitable for scientific reference	Yes
Abstract submission is a commitment to present the paper / attend conference	Yes
Preview or literature review	Not accepted
Paper on original research will only be considered	Yes
Summary should be discussed with co-authors and read critically by colleague not closely involved	Yes
Authors will be asked to rewrite substandard papers or risk rejection	Yes
Changes and corrections in titles and authors after submission are to be avoided	Yes

<b>CONTENT (Sections)</b>	<b>Abstract</b>
Title (maximum 50 words)	Yes
Text up to 900 words, reducing to 750 if (2) tables/figures included. They must be at least 450 words	Yes
Application	Yes
Introduction	Yes
Materials and Methods Statistical analysis to be included here, images, figures and tables permitted	Yes
Results	Yes
Conclusions	Yes
Acknowledgements	Yes
References	Yes

<b>CONTENT / FORMAT</b>	<b>Graphics</b>
<p>*Illustrations - tables, figures and images (details for abstracts):</p> <p><b>Figures</b></p> <p>All coloured images / figures should be saved as a flat JPEG file with no layers. Please enter figure title in the text. JPEG files should have a resolution of at least 300 DPI, with no borders.</p> <p><b>Tables</b></p> <p>Table titles should be numbered sequentially and presented above the table.</p>	Permitted

<b>PRESENTATIONS</b>	<b>Presentation</b>
Authors are only be permitted to present 2 oral presentations or posters; co-authors should be asked to present or be present for poster viewing if multiple papers submitted.	Yes

## Author Guidelines for Abstract Submission

An abstract should allow the reviewers to referee the proposed paper for scientific content, ethics, presentation and relevance. Submission of an abstract is deemed a commitment to present the paper.

- Your abstract, if accepted, will be published in the conference proceedings and must be suitable for use as a scientific reference
- The presenting author for each abstract must register for the conference by **15 January 2024**. Failure to do so will result in the abstract being removed from the conference proceedings and programme. If you are having issues registering please contact [BSASconference@abbeyuk.com](mailto:BSASconference@abbeyuk.com)
- Please ensure all authors agree to being identified as associated with the paper; the abstract should be discussed with any co-authors and read critically by a colleague who has not been closely involved
- Abstracts that do not meet the required criteria will need to be amended by authors in-line with reviewer comments. If the requested changes are not made, the abstract will be rejected. Amendments, other than those requested by reviewers, can only be made in exceptional circumstances
- Abstracts must be no more than
  - **900 words, reducing to ~750 words with two illustrations with a minimum of 450 words**

UK English must be used throughout; no abbreviations should be used in the abstract

Reviews that give a new evaluation of data that individual experiments could not, are acceptable

- Previews or literature reviews will not be accepted
- Where results on commercial products are being presented, authors should ensure that both their organisation and the commercial company involved give permission to publish before submitting an abstract
- Use of Product brand names is limited to one time only

More detailed information of guidelines can be found [here](#)

### Deadline & Enquiries

- **Abstract submission deadline: 23.59 GMT, 31 October 2023**
- Please send any queries or assistance requests to [BSASconference@abbeyuk.com](mailto:BSASconference@abbeyuk.com)

## Important information

- If you are submitting more than one abstract, you can use the same Login for each abstract
- You can alter the abstract at any time up to the deadline
- Do not include the author's name in the title or body of your abstract because a "blind" reviewing process will be used
- Author names can be submitted under 'Authors and Affiliations' as part of the online submission process; please enter full author name
- Illustrations (figures, tables etc.) should be uploaded as a Word document – please follow the abstract submission platform instructions
- Please check formatting prior to submitting your abstract
- Please check that all references listed in the text are reported in the reference list and *vice versa*

## How to use the online Abstract submission system

### The Submission Process

- Use the submission link on the conference website or [click here](#)
- You will be taken to a login screen; please enter your email address to Login or Register
- Submitting an abstract is a multi-step process; each step is clearly identified with detail of the information required
- If you stop part way through the process your submission will be incomplete until you return later and complete all the mandatory questions; remember to periodically press 'Save' – this saves your progress and avoids losing information should your session 'time out'
- When you login again, you can click on your incomplete submission and continue
- By clicking "submit" your abstract will automatically be saved; you are able to save and amend your abstract any time up to 23:59 (UK) on the closing date
- Abstracts will only be marked complete, and be submitted, after you tick "submit"
- At the deadline, any incomplete abstracts will be rejected

### Title

The title should be descriptive, specific, and concise. It should also state the animal species concerned. It should replace information otherwise found in the main text. The title should be a maximum of 50 words, and not have a 'full stop' at the end. No abbreviations please.

### *Presentation Type*

Please use the drop-down menu to indicate whether you have a preference for an oral or digital poster presentation. Further information on presentation format can be found on the [conference website](#).

### *Sessions*

Please indicate which subject area or species you feel your paper fits most closely. This will help the organising committee to allocate papers to appropriate sessions in order to create a balanced programme.

### *Authors and affiliations*

- When naming authors, please use the initials for all given names followed by a 'full stop', along with the last name written in full. For example – L. Smith
- Additional authors can be added to the abstract submission by clicking 'add author' below the author section
- Additional affiliations can be added by clicking 'add affiliation'
- Please ensure that you use the correct affiliation and address for your institution to ensure consistency amongst submissions
- All correspondence will be sent to the submitting author only; the presenting authors email address will be published in the conference proceedings

### *Abstract Upload*

Abstracts should be uploaded as Word documents. Any figures or images should be included in the text. Abstracts must conform to the structure described later in these guidelines.

### *Additional Information*

#### *Author approval*

All authors must approve the manuscript before submission. You must tick the box to confirm this is the case.

#### *Author will attend*

All presenting authors (oral and poster) are expected to attend the conference. You must tick the box to confirm this is the case. Any other authors wishing to attend the conference will also need to register.

**The presenting author must register for the conference no later than 15 January 2024.** All presenting authors are expected to attend the conference in person. If you are not able to attend the conference, please contact [BSASconference@abbeyuk.com](mailto:BSASconference@abbeyuk.com) to discuss options, such as a co-author presenting in your place.

### *Conflict of interest*

Please state here if any of the authors have any financial, professional and personal relationships that may pose a conflict of interest regarding this abstract submission.

### *Ethical guidelines*

All work must comply with the Ethical guidelines for research in animal science. Please confirm that this is the case and where appropriate, the required licences are in place.

### *Prior publication*

If research outlined in your abstract has previously been published elsewhere, please select 'Yes'.

### *Career stage*

Please select whether you are Early Careers (up to 3 years post grad) or Established (greater than 3 years post grad). Submissions from Early Careers may be eligible for specific EC sessions and prizes.

### *Submit Abstract*

Once this has been selected, abstracts will be marked as complete and sent to reviewers. Authors will not be able to edit abstracts once the deadline has passed.

## Abstract details

Authors and Affiliations are not included in the word count. Your submission should be structured and contain the following information:

### *Title*

The title should be descriptive, specific, and concise. It should also state the animal species concerned. It should replace information otherwise found in the main text. The title should be a maximum of 50 words, and not have a 'full stop' at the end. No abbreviations please.

### *Text*

Please use British – UK English spelling

Different sections application, introduction, material and methods, etc. should be separated by one clear line; section headings should be in bold, and text should begin on the same line as the heading (please refer to abstract Example).

## Content

### *Application*

Explain the expected importance or commercial, economic, environmental and or social impact of the work using language readily understood by a non-expert, (i.e. how can this work be used?).

### *Introduction*

State the background and objectives of the work.

### *Material and methods*

Describe the methods used, including numbers and types of animals. Statistical analyses conventions should be those used in ['animal'](#).

Experimental design and statistical methods must be clear, vague statements such as “the data were analysed using Minitab” are not acceptable. Experiments where treatments and pens (or groups) of animals are confounded are not acceptable.

### *Results*

Results obtained, together with relevant statistical analysis, should be presented in sufficient detail to support the conclusions drawn. Treatment means should be presented with appropriate standard errors of means or differences. The minimum number of decimal places required to demonstrate statistically significant differences should be used. Probability values must be presented to support conclusions. Probability levels of  $P > 0.05$  are NOT statistically significant.



The use of percentages should be avoided wherever possible; concentrations or compositions should be expressed as mass per unit mass or mass per unit volume; decimal proportions should be used for common ratios such as, for example, diet digestibility coefficients.

The results of surveys will be accepted if the work is original research, rigorously designed, executed, and statistically analysed.

### *Conclusions*

The conclusions should reflect the original objective(s) of the work and clearly state the author's view of the implications of the results to scientific understanding and practical use. Vague sentences are not acceptable. A discussion is not required.

### *Acknowledgements*

The funders of the work should be acknowledged in this section.

### *References*

Studies cited in the body of the abstract should refer to the author(s) and the year of the study. It is the author's responsibility to ensure that all references are cited and accurate.

References should be listed alphabetically by first author surname, and no more than five references should be given. The reference list should follow the [animal – Science Proceedings Guidelines](#).

Example: Timon, C.M., O'Connor, A., Bhargava, N., Gibney, E.R., and Feeney, E.L. 2020. *Nutrients*, 12(10), 3040.

## Awards

### Industry Prize

The Industry Prize is for the members of the Society who are early career researchers and are conducting research designed to have a positive impact on the animal science industry. Applicants will be judged by their abstract, as well as their presentation at the Annual Conference and winners will receive a £200 cash prize.

To apply for the Industry Award, you must be a BSAS member and:

- An early career animal scientist (postgraduate student or within two years of graduating with a PhD)
- OR working in commerce or industry with an equivalent level of experience (without necessarily having a PhD)

Applicants will be judged according to the following criteria:

- Impact of the work on industry
- Clarity of presentation
- Scientific content

Further Information is available on the [conference website](#).

### President's Prize

The President's Prize is for members of the Society who are presenting either their first or second paper at the Annual Conference. The winner of the President's Prize will receive a prize of £200.

To apply for the President's Prize, you must be:

- A BSAS member
- Presenting your first or second paper at the Annual Conference

Applicants will be judged according to the following criteria:

- Quality of delivery / presentation
- Ability to respond to Q&A
- Content – including
  - identification of key issues and research questions
  - provision of supporting evidence for arguments
  - explanation of source material
  - consideration of potential issues

Further Information is available on the [conference website](#).

Abstract example – for layout guide only – tables and figures, if used, should be shown within the text

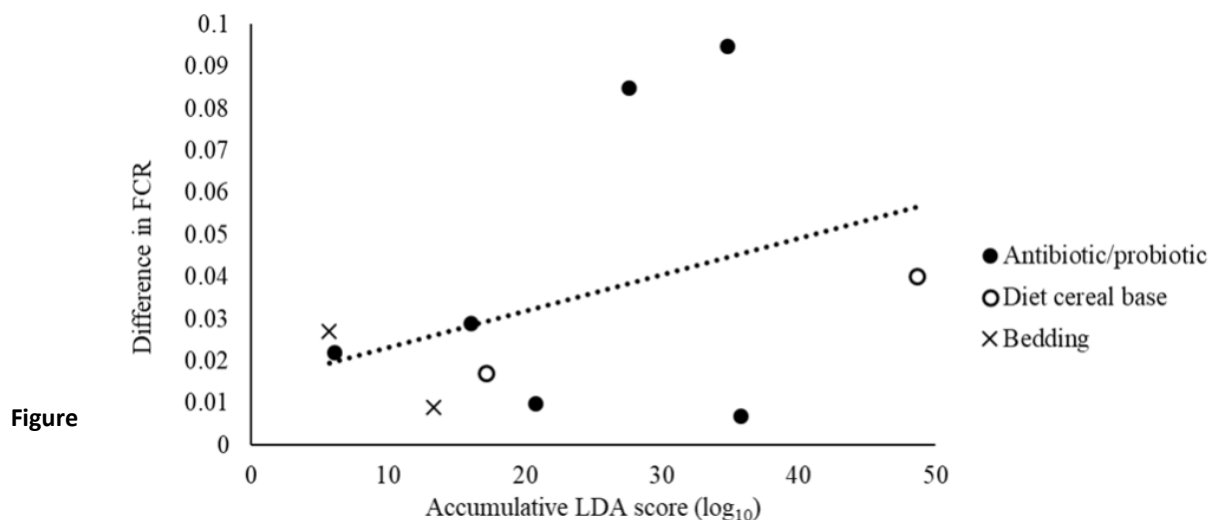
### The relationship between variation in the caecal microbiome and productivity of broiler chickens

**Application:** The profile of the caecal microbiome of broilers was sensitive to the effects of management strategies, but these differences were not reflected in growth efficiency.

**Introduction:** The gut microbiome of broiler chickens exhibits a plethora of relationships with the host including digestive efficiency (Yan et al., 2017). The caecum harbours a complex microbiome, and ongoing research suggests that said microbiome is sensitive to the effects of management strategies. It is unclear whether differences in the microbial profile are indicative of performance, particularly since high levels of variation between individual birds and flocks appear to exist. The aim of the present study was to compile data from a range of experiments, where the effects of management strategies (antibiotic/probiotic treatment, bedding, and diet cereal base) on performance and the caecal microbiome were explored, and to elucidate relationships between variation in the profile of the caecal microbiome and the feed conversion ratio (FCR) of growing broilers.

**Material and methods:** Data from three separate studies were combined; all birds were Ross-308, obtained from the same hatchery and housed in the same experimental facility. Data were recorded at a range of time points spanning 15 to 35 days of age, with a total of 82 pens representing 10 treatment groups. The effects of treatment on average pen FCR were explored through ANOVA and the caecal microbiome of one bird per pen was explored through population profiling on the Illumina platform. Data were processed in QIIME and differences in the relative abundances of bacterial taxa were highlighted by Linear Discriminant Analysis Effect Size (LEfSe). The size of the difference between microbial profiles was characterised by accumulative linear discriminant analysis (LDA) scores, where a higher score highlighted a larger difference. Relationships between numerical differences in average pen FCR and accumulative LDA scores per treatment group were finally explored through regression analysis.

**Results:** FCR did not differ between treatment groups within a study ( $P > 0.05$ ), though there were consistently differences in the composition of the caecal microbiome. No relationship between numerical differences in FCR and accumulative LDA score was observed (Figure 1;  $R^2 = 0.386$ ;  $P = 0.270$ ).



1: The relationship between differences in performance (FCR) and microbial populations (accumulative LDA score).

**Conclusion:** Observed differences in the profile of the caecal microbiome were not reflected in differences in FCR between groups of birds in the present studies. Whilst the microbiome of an individual bird can appear different from another, variation may not necessarily alter their productive success. It is hypothesised that a 'model' microbiome does not strictly exist, and that the most important factor is the ability of said microbiome to perform key metabolic activities.

**Acknowledgements:** The authors acknowledge funding from AB Agri, MERCK and the Elizabeth Creak Charitable Trust

**References:** Yan W, Sun C, Yuan J and Yang N 2017. Animal Health Research Reviews 7, 45308.