

Guidelines for AOS Theses Proposals

1. Concerns a topic that is relevant to ophthalmologists.
2. Includes at least one well-designed study with a clearly stated hypothesis. Well-designed studies can be experimental laboratory investigations, animal or clinical research, cross-sectional studies, case-control or case-cohort studies, extraction of data from databases with analysis, clinical trials, multi-center clinical trials, systematic reviews, meta-analyses.
3. Adheres to the highest current standards for scientific investigations that are pertinent to the proposed study. Examples of such standards are CONSORT, PRISMA, Delphi, Cochrane, registration on clinicaltrials.gov if appropriate.
4. Obtains permission of all proposed co-authors at the time of abstract submission.
5. Confirms that the design, literature review, analysis, provision of materials and patients, and writing were the responsibility of the candidate. Clearly notes the contributions of co-authors. Discloses conflicts of interest.
6. Calculates that there are adequate numbers of subjects to reach valid conclusions.
7. Details the methods that will be used to study each hypothesis.
8. Provides an extensive background for the proposed study, including prior research by others and, often, the candidate. Background includes why the research question is meaningful to ophthalmologists, what the pipeline of research is for this particular question, where the current work is positioned in the research stream, how the candidate assesses the importance of the work in the totality of the research stream.
9. Certifies that the work has not been previously submitted for publication, is being proposed specifically to qualify for membership in the AOS and will follow the publication guidelines of the AOS.
10. Respects the eclecticism of the AOS by making the thesis comprehensible to ophthalmologists from diverse backgrounds.