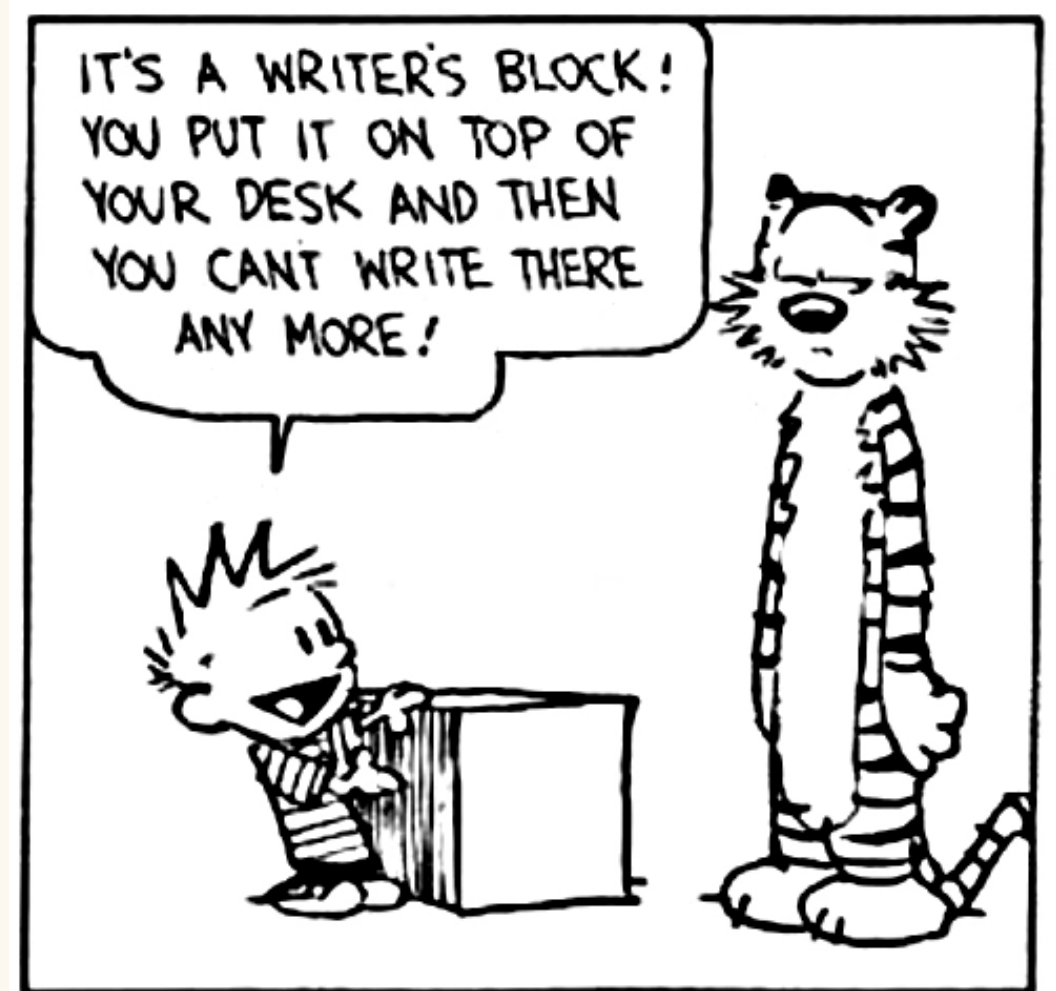


The background of the slide is a close-up photograph of several microcentrifuge tubes, likely Eppendorf tubes, arranged in a cluster. Each tube has a white label with a barcode and a QR code. The tubes are slightly out of focus, with the ones in the foreground being sharper. The entire image is overlaid with a semi-transparent red filter. The text 'Abstract writing - Discussion' is centered in the middle of the image in a white, bold, sans-serif font.

Abstract writing - Discussion

Slides courtesy of Willi McFarland/CAPS/ITAPS/UCSF

The Discussion





- This section highlights the meaning and impact of your study

- It is:

- ❖ *The most interpretative part*
- ❖ *The most creative part*
- ❖ *The most prone to writer's block*



Recipe for abstract



- ❖ Mission accomplished sentence
- ❖ Plus a sentence more of other findings
- ❖ Probably no room for confession
- ❖ What does it mean?

- EXAMPLES FROM:

1. Assessment of transfusion transmitted dengue
2. A 10 year review of Hepatitis B infection in donors at the South African National Blood Service
3. HIV prevalence amongst women participating in ANC surveys in Zimbabwe





State the single most important finding as concisely and accurately as possible

Example:

- “Approximately one third of components from RNA-positive donations transmitted infection during the 2012 DENV-4 outbreak in Brazil”
 - “An additional 1 488 potential HBV transmissions were interdicted by the use of ID-NAT over 10 years”
 - “The overall prevalence of HIV infection among women participating in ANC surveys decreased between 2000 and 2004 in Zimbabwe.”
-
- The first sentence of Discussion
 - “We found...”
 - “Our study shows...”
 - “Our study provides evidence that...”





Add additional most significant finding/s.

Example:

- “This infection rate is vastly higher than the 0.93% rate of DENV RNA detection in samples collected near the time of transfusion from enrolled recipients who were exclusively transfused with DENV RNA-negative components”
- “The decline in HBV prevalence amongst 16 to 19 years olds might be related to childhood vaccination implemented in 1985”
- “Three local research studies also found declines in HIV prevalence during the same period.”



No room for confessions



- **What do we mean by that?**

- When writing an articles conclusion – limitations of the study is always mentioned followed by “redeeming yourself”
- The abstract is limited and this will not future
- Remember to include when presenting



What does it mean?



- Many readers might not understand your results – tell them what it means in words
- How does this relate to the big picture and how does it impact/change the way forward
- What are the public health and clinical implications
- Setting the future research agenda (be specific)

Example:

- “In conclusion, during epidemics of dengue in dengue endemic countries, transfusion transmission is occurring, with more than one third of components from RNA-positive donations transmitting infection”
- “ HBV residual risk remains the highest of all the viral markers tested for at SANBS and is 25 times higher than HIV and 90 times higher than HCV”
- The decline is similar in magnitude to that experienced by Uganda. The trend is corroborated by changes in reported sexual behavior”



Tips



- Do not simply repeat results
- Use words rather than numbers:
 - “Nearly half” vs. 49.1%
 - “More than three times the odds” vs. OR of 3.12
- One thought per sentence if possible
- Avoid claims that might not be true e.g. “This is the first...This is the most significant...”
- Do not criticise or state that other studies or authors got it wrong “Their study was less significant due to their small sample size..”
- Avoid space fillers saying nothing “More research is needed”
- Do not discuss results you never mentioned – stick to your data and your findings
- End positive if possible



The image shows a collection of medical syringes, likely for insulin, arranged on a surface. The entire scene is overlaid with a semi-transparent red filter. In the center, the text "Thank you..." is written in a white, sans-serif font. The syringes in the foreground have labels with QR codes and barcodes. The background is filled with more syringes, some of which are out of focus. The overall composition is clean and professional, suggesting a medical or pharmaceutical context.

Thank you...