

Suggestions for Preparing Effective Posters

GENERAL INFORMATION

A poster presentation is essentially a self-explanatory presentation of a research project that allows viewers to proceed on their own, while the author is free to supplement and discuss points raised while viewers are looking at the display. In addition, you may wish to bring supplemental copies of your paper, poster, or abstract (optional) to distribute during the working-paper poster session.

There will be working-paper poster session on Thursday evening, in conjunction with the Opening Reception, from 6:00-7:30 pm. The area available for each poster presenter is a board space approx. 4 ft. by 4 ft., supported on a stand. We will provide the board, stand, and material needed to attach the presentation to the board (e.g., pins/tape). The room will be available for you to attach your presentation to the board starting at 5:00 PM prior to your session. The session is scheduled to run from 6:00 - 7:30 PM and we ask you to then remove your materials immediately following the session at 7:30 PM.

PREPARING YOUR MATERIALS

Title

Prepare a title sheet/banner for the top of your poster indicating the title, authors, and affiliations.

Figures and Tables

Figures should be designed to be viewed from a distance and should use clear, visible graphics. Although each figure should illustrate no more than one or two major points, figures need not be simple. The main points should be very clear (simple), but detail can be included for the knowledgeable viewer.

Each figure or table should have a heading of one or two lines in large type, which states the "take home" message. Detailed information should be provided in a legend below in smaller type. Because there is little text accompanying a poster, the figure legend should contain commentary that would normally appear in the body (Results and Discussion) of a manuscript. Viewers tend to skim or ignore long textual passages.

Layout

You might consider printing your presentation on colored paper. It is helpful to group logically consistent sections of the presentation on the same background color. Muted colors provide an effective background.

Arrange materials in columns rather than in rows (see suggested format below). It is easier for viewers to scan a poster by moving systematically along it rather than by zig-zagging back and forth in front of it. An introduction should be placed at the upper left and a conclusion at the lower right, both in large type. You may want to consider numbering your sheets so the sequence is obvious.

Title Sheet

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