

MEDICAL STUDENT RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

TIPS REGARDING A POSTER PRESENTATION

1. Space is limited. You will be sharing space with at least one other poster, so **poster sizes are to be NO LARGER than 4 feet wide (height ideally is 4 – 4 ½ feet tall).**
2. **Limit the information** you present to that which is absolutely essential. People will often take only a minute or two to scan your poster. If you can capture their interest in this interval, they may stay longer, and you can explain any details they may have questions about.
3. **Use Very Large Type!!!** 16-point type may seem large on your computer screen, but it will appear microscopic on a poster. People will often have to view your poster under less-than-ideal conditions. If several people are trying to look at it at once, they will have to read it from three to four feet away.
4. **Text is the Enemy!** People will generally not read long blocks of text on a poster. Replace text with diagrams wherever possible.
5. All posters should **include the following** information:
 - a. *Introduction or Abstract.* It is not necessary to have both an introduction and an abstract, as you would in a paper. One very concise summary of your project is sufficient. This summary should cover the same ground that the whole poster covers, only much more concisely. The summary should include:
 - Why you did the study. This could be a single sentence, but provide context for your work.
 - Experimental Design. This should be brief—a sentence or two will often suffice.
 - Results.
 - Conclusions.
 - b. *Experimental Design.* A poster is not the place to explain that you added Pen-Strep and glutamine to all your culture media. Experiments or studies should be described in broad strokes. People sometimes think that using technical language will give their poster an authoritative tone, when really it may be a turn-off. Keep it simple. Replace text with diagrams if you can.
 - c. *Results.* Pay attention to making tables, charts, and diagrams very simple. Again, everything must be readable at a distance.
 - d. *Conclusions.* You can reasonably expect people to remember only two to five things about your work (five is pushing it!). Pick only the most important things you want to communicate and summarize your results concisely.
6. Lastly, keep in mind that **you will be at your poster presenting it orally**, using the poster as a prop. The poster doesn't have to contain every detail of your work. You will be there to tie it all together. It helps to practice what you will say.