Preparing a Poster Presentation

Practical Questions

Once your abstract has been accepted as a poster presentation, the conference organisers should provide the necessary information. The following are questions that you might want to find the answers to help you prepare.

Designing and printing

- What size should my poster be?
- What format should the poster be in; landscape or portrait?
- Is there an option to get the poster printed at the event, or do I need to print it before?
- Are there any other restrictions with respect to: language, text size or graphics?
- Should I bring some A4 flyers with a copy of my poster to give to interested delegates?

At the conference

- Where do I put my poster?
- How can I attach my poster? Do I need to bring anything?
- Is there a 'poster session' where I should stand next to, or present my poster? When will it be?
- When should I remove my poster? What happens if I forget?

A suggestion of questions to ask yourself before finalizing your poster

General impression	Is this poster a visual presentation of information (i.e., using graphs, tables, diagrams)? In other words, is it a simple reproduction of a written paper in poster format?
	Is this poster understandable to your colleagues without any verbal comment?
	Does this poster provide a clear flow of information from introduction to conclusion?
	The flow of information should be clear from the layout.
	Does this poster focus on major findings (few key messages)?
	A common fault is to try to cover too much in a poster. Does this poster lead you quickly to the point?
Other aspects you may like to think about (content, word count, idea flow, figure clarity, font size, spelling, etc):	Are the title and author's name of this poster prominent and eye-catching?
	Do visuals used in this poster help you to understand the main messages this poster wants to deliver?
	Are the visuals clear?
	Are the key messages highlighted? (e.g., use boxes to isolate and emphasise specific points)
	Are the key messages organized in form of short, simple and separate statements (e.g., bullet points).
	Does the poster use a clear font with large inner space (i.e. the space inside the loops of letters such as 'o', 'd', 'p')? Good examples are Arial, Verdana, Georgia or Helvetica.
	Does this poster keep the word count as low as possible?
	Is the text in the body of the poster big enough to be read from 1.8-3 meters away?
Thinking creatively	Is there anything that you would change in order for this poster to look differently from other posters?

Useful references:

- Erren T.C., Bourne P.E. (2007) Ten Simple Rules for a Good Poster Presentation. PLoS Comput Biol 3(5): e102. doi:10.1371/journal.pcbi.0030102
- Purrington, C. : Designing conference posters colinpurrington.com/tips/academic/posterdesign
- Rimon N., Elbaz Y., & Schuldiner, M.: How to create a good poster. Tips for first time poster presenters