

American Thoracic Society

International Conference

Instructions for Lead Facilitators for Thematic Poster Sessions

GOALS

1. Foster discussion of important scientific and clinical questions relevant to the major themes of the session.
2. Ensure that all posters in the session are viewed and discussed by at least one facilitator. This requires your careful attention during the poster session. It also requires monitoring the other facilitators.
3. Offer specific feedback to the authors concerning their data and its interpretation.
4. Foster the exchange of ideas between the presenters and observers of the poster material.
5. The facilitator role is extremely important as the majority of abstracts presented will be scheduled in this format.

FORMAT

- Poster presentations of abstracts closely related in themes
- Session duration:
 - Posters are on display from 9:15 a.m. - 4:15 p.m. for independent viewing of posters
 - Facilitators and authors are in attendance from 11:30 a.m. - 1:15 p.m.

PREPARATION BEFORE THE CONFERENCE

Multiple facilitators will be assigned to each thematic poster session. Facilitators will have some degree of expertise in the theme being presented. Each facilitator, including the lead facilitator, will be assigned specific abstracts to oversee. Although each facilitator is directly responsible for their assigned abstracts, it is highly recommended that the facilitators be familiar with all the abstracts. It's especially important to identify abstracts that focus on the same or related issues. All the abstracts to be presented during the thematic poster session will be sent to the facilitators prior to the conference.

Lead Facilitator Responsibilities:

- Oversee the abstracts to be presented.
- Provide guidance to the other facilitators assigned to this session.
- Contact each facilitator to discuss the abstracts and strategies for fostering discussion at the session .
- Contact colleagues who have an expertise in the topic being addressed and ask that they attend the session with the intent of participation.

DURING THE THEMATIC POSTER SESSION

Lead Facilitator Role:

- Monitor other facilitators to ensure the best possible author-audience interaction is being encouraged.

Facilitator Role:

- Introduce yourself to the authors of your assigned abstracts. Let them know you are assigned as a facilitator.
- Group Discussion: time for facilitators to foster group discussion with the authors and attendees
 - Sunday, Monday, Tuesday sessions: 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
- Interaction with attendees: time for authors to interact with the attendees. Facilitators should plan to have contact with each poster author in their group during this time
 - Sunday, Monday, Tuesday sessions: 12:30 p.m. - 1:15 p.m.
- Encourage scientific exchange and point out the similarities and differences between posters by interacting with the authors and audience
- One suggested method is to conduct walk arounds, where each facilitator and the authors visit each poster with the group. This could be an effective method for stimulating discussion.
- Encourage viewers' participation and discussion.
- Guide experts to posters so that they can give the authors feedback.