HOW TO DO A POSTER

1. Choose a topic

2. Decide on a format. For example:
   - clinical trial
   - basic science research
   - case report
   - educational intervention

3. Decide on an appropriate audience and conference

4. Do a literature search
   - Build your foundation of knowledge on the subject
   - Discover what research has been done and how it has been done
   - Determine how your study will benefit the field

5. Justify your topic but answering the following questions:
   - Is the topic novel?
   - How does your topic add to the current field of knowledge?
   - Will there be interest in the topic?
   - What is the current opinion on your topic?

6. Resource planning
   - How much time will be necessary to complete the project?
   - What funding is available to help accomplish your research and poster?
   - What resources are available for printing your poster?

7. Write an abstract
   - Read the abstract submission details provided by your conference.
   - Look up abstracts from previous years for appropriate examples.
   - Most follow the Introduction, Methods, Results, Discussion format

8. Poster planning
   - Decide how you are going to present your information
   - Effective posters use more illustrations than words
   - Review instructions provided by the meeting organizers
   - Ask mentors or professionals in the medical illustrations dept for guidance

9. Write your text
   - Introduction: Brief overview or your objectives, hypothesis, and findings
   - Methods: Illustrate your study design and process
   - Results: Use illustrations and brief statements to present your findings
   - Discussion or List of Conclusions
10. Create your poster with the following in mind:
   - What have you liked or dislike about other posters?
   - Have you included informative headings that make the poster easy to read?
   - Is the flow of information logical (L to R, top to bottom)?
   - Is the poster made busy by unnecessary data or information?
   - Is the poster self-explanatory?
   - Have you used a font size and type that is easy to read from 6 ft. away?
   - Glare from a laminated or glossy poster may make it difficult to read.

Helpful Resources:


