

Tips for creating a poster for CHEST

Posters are considerably different from oral presentations, as they are a more visual media than the oral performance of a talk.

Posters are generally made in PowerPoint, and most institutions will have a template with logos available for use from visual media or the department. If you are unsure, ask around.

The poster size limit is 4 feet by 8 feet, but I have found that 3 feet by 6 feet is a good size, as it will not hang off of the board. It is important that the poster have font size that is readable on the poster. A good rule of thumb is size 22 font, but that can vary depending on the font type that you are using. Ask a senior fellow or junior faculty member if you can borrow their PowerPoint poster from a previous year and use it as a template for layout, font size, etc.

Posters that have a mixture of text and pictures/graphs/tables are the best. A poster with only text is exhausting to look at, and one with only large clip art is unhelpful from a content standpoint. It is a delicate balance, and is best judged by more senior faculty members who have made quite a few posters- so run your digital file by them before printing it up!! Additionally, make sure you look at a small proof of your poster from the printer- most can do this as long as you give them several days' lead-time, and seeing it in print on a sheet of paper prior to printing the large poster can highlight things that may have not been apparent on your computer screen.

Have a 2-minute spiel ready for those who pass by and want to hear about your poster. It should be detailed enough to highlight salient points, but brief enough that you will keep their attention. This means that for a case report there will be a lot of details that may be tangential or marginally important that you have to leave out from your oral discussion of the case!! Just have this information ready for any questions. Interested folks will ask plenty, so you can let their questions drive how detailed to become at that point.

Posters are a terrific way to get your name out there and rub elbows with more senior faculty from around the country- you'll be surprised what "big names" you'll run into in the poster sessions and how interested they will be in the science/cases you are presenting!!!