Creating a Poster Presentation for the International Congress of Behavioural Optometry Annual Meeting

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Abstract
Have you seen an interesting patient lately? Do you know how many of your colleagues would like to hear all the details? A poster presentation is an excellent method to bring these clinical gems to the attention of your colleagues. This presentation will teach you step-by-step procedures to successfully develop and submit a poster to the International Congress of Behavioural Optometry annual meeting. Posters provide a forum for practitioners and clinical researchers to discuss decision-making and patient outcomes, as well as clinical research. It provides a personal communication medium that offers many advantages over other presentation formats.

The Poster

Structured Abstracts
Abstract should be no longer than 300 words in length consisting of four basic sections:

For Research Presentations
Research presentations (both clinical research and non-clinical research in nature) should use a structured abstract. The structured abstract should have 4 parts: Background, Methods, Results, and Conclusions.

Background: This should briefly describe the problem or topic addressed
Methods: This should briefly describe how the study was conducted
Results: This should briefly describe the most important results
Conclusions: This should briefly describe what can be concluded from the results.
For Case Reports
Substitute Case Report(s) for Methods and Results, and succinctly describe the case(s).
Background: This should briefly describe the problem or topic addressed.
Case Report: This should describe your case/s. (Brief review of the case history, clinical findings, differential diagnosis, treatment and outcomes.)
Conclusions: This should a very brief review of the case history, clinical findings, differential diagnosis, treatment and outcomes as compared to other similar cases. You may also wish to review what should have been done, or could have been done, and the way patient outcomes might have differed depending upon your chosen diagnostic and therapeutic methodology.

The Body of the Poster
The body of the poster should use the same formatting as the abstract and should give more detail and expand upon the topic areas noted in the structured abstract.

Tables and illustrations
An appropriate number of photographs, tables, figures and illustrations are encouraged. Authors should consult the CBE Style Manual for further information on preparation of tables, figures, and other illustrative material.

Abbreviations
Except for units of measurement, abbreviations are discouraged. The first time abbreviations or acronyms are used, they should be spelled out.
Generic and proprietary names
Use generic names in referring to drugs. Use proprietary names only to differentiate between drug forms, or if a specific product was used in a study or associated with an adverse drug reaction. Instruments, devices, or other products may be referred to by their proprietary names.

Units of measurement
Authors should express all measurements in conventional units.

The Look and Feel of a Poster
Posters a medium and should attract viewers by using large font size, many figures, and numerous photographs.

Font Size
Your text should be readily visible from 3-6 feet (1-2 meters) away.

Contrast
All text should exhibit high contrast (i.e. black print on a white background)

Tables, Figures, Photographs
Tables, figures and photograph titles should all be large enough to view from several feet/meters away. Color is highly recommended for photographs. The tables and figures should be large enough to see from approximately 3 feet/1 meter distance.
How do I Make a Poster?
If you are a faculty member of a school, college or university, usually it's just a matter of going to your audio/visual/media team and explaining what you would like to do. They will help you with the layout and printing. If you are not a faculty member, many copy/printing businesses can help or you can just use your very own computer and printer.

Specifications for Posters
Most meeting venues will have their own requirements for posters. The ICBO, American Academy of Optometry and the American Optometric Association use the following specifications:
Poster dimensions can be as large as 48" high X 96" wide
Make sure your poster can be mounted on a Velcro and/or pushpin receptive display.
All text on the poster should be in type no smaller than 18 pt. and must be legible from a distance of about 4-5 feet.
Each illustration should contain a caption.

Submitting Your Abstract for Consideration
Acceptance will be based upon the following criteria:
1. The abstract must be received by ICBO Poster Committee Chair
2. The abstract must follow the instructions on the submission form explicitly.
3. The abstract must contain sufficient detail for evaluation.
4. The abstract must be based upon original and previously unpublished research/case report.
5. The information conveyed must be of sufficient general interest to the behavioural/functional optometric community.
6. The abstract must be clear, concise and well written in anticipation of publication.
7. The abstract must demonstrate a clear and soundly tested hypothesis and must contain and clearly convey the following key elements: purpose, method, results and conclusion.
8. The case report abstract must contain and clearly convey the following key elements: background, case summary, and conclusion.
The poster abstracts may be published in the appropriate journals after presentation to the ICBO community. Please also consider writing up your poster as a paper to be submitted to the appropriate journal.

Questions? Contact:
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