POSTER PRESENTATIONS

Your research is not really complete until it is properly communicated—conferences and poster sessions are an essential part of contributing to your scientific community.

- Greet visitors and smile. Introduce yourself—say your full name and the name of the lab you are working in.

- Ask visitors about themselves—what department are they from? What's their area of research? This will help you tailor your presentation according to the listener's familiarity with your topic.

- When you are explaining your poster, try to follow the logical order of Information as you've arranged it on the poster.

- Speak clearly and <u>don't rush</u>. Pause occasionally to give visitors a chance to ask you questions.

- If another researcher gives you advice or a reference, be sure to thank her or him (and don't forget to follow up on it—it may be an important new element for your research).

- Remember that you put the graphics on your poster for a reason! Use images, charts, and other graphics to clarify and reinforce key points.

- Keep your presentation down to about 5-8 minutes (visitors may ask questions that will keep you talking much longer, which is fine, but the basic overview should not try to pack in too much information). Try to be concise, but say enough to convey all the key components.

General Tips (Eric Seidlitz, SDSMT)

• Prepare a handout – always include your contact information and add more experimental detail if you feel it is needed.

• Think of every visitor to your poster as a potential employer or colleague – show respectful enthusiasm and be prepared to answer questions.

• At the poster session, set up your poster early and use the extra time to meet your neighbors (they are likely to be interested in the same things as you). When the session starts, stay with your poster and just keep talking!

• Remember, all research presentations are supposed to be persuasive in nature – your job is to convince the audience of your interpretation.

• Add a pdf version of your poster or your handout (or both) to your web page. Indicate that this is available on your business card (you are bringing cards, right?). This is particularly handy if you run out of printed handouts.

• Add your poster presentation to your CV (do this before you forget!). This could be useful in the future.

Handy Web Links

How to give an effective poster presentation (George Hess):
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vMSaFUrk-FA

SACNAS Presentation Resources:
General Resources on Presentations:
http://www.sacnas.org/confnew/confclient/presentationResources.asp
Poster Presentation Practice & Feedback
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RRpND47v84I