# Tips for Poster Presentations

**For the Featured Presentations at the Welcome Reception**

The following information will help you prepare your research results so that your colleagues get the most benefit from the poster presentation at the ISTSS Annual Meeting.

## What is a Poster Presentation?

A poster is a visual presentation of your research or clinical project. Use schematic diagrams, graphs, tables, and other strategies to direct the visual attention of the viewer, rather than explaining it using text as you would in a journal article.

A poster addresses one central question. State the question or hypothesis clearly in the poster and use your presentation to provide a clear and explicit take-home message.

## What you will Need

## At the Welcome Reception your poster will be on the SIG table that endorsed your poster. The maximum size of your poster is one meter square (39 inches by 39 inches).

## ISTSS will provide small easel backs with self-adhesive strips onto which you may mount your posters. You should bring posters printed or mounted on Foam Core or other lightweight, inflexible backing. Posters on regular paper will tend to curl; posters on heavy cardboard will tend to fall over.

## It’s helpful to your colleagues when you provide a handout of your poster that includes your full contact information so they have access to your important ideas after the conference. Bringing mailing labels is also helpful, in case you run out of handouts. Colleagues can write their name and address on these labels that you can use to disseminate handouts after the meeting.

## Title and Author

## Posters should all be formatted using the following template: The Title of a Poster Should Be in Upper and Lower Case, using lower case only for conjunctions, prepositions, and articles. Please include authors in their proper order, followed by their affiliation [Please, no departments or centers or other secondary listings]. When multiple authors are at the same institution, you may group them under a single affiliation.



## Content

Posters usually have a similar structure to a research paper or journal article: an ***abstract***, ***introduction*** (i.e., brief rationale or review of relevant research), ***method*** section, ***results*** section, and a ***conclusion*** or summary. If your poster is more clinically oriented you may decide to use a different format, but breaking things down into clear sections with headings will help your colleagues understand your poster easily and quickly.

In the busy and crowded environment of a poster session most people do not have the ability to read and process long sections of text. Therefore, keep text to the bare essentials and stick to the most important ideas. You can convey details via discussion when you are standing by your poster.

## Format

* Use bullet points to simplify sections like the introduction and conclusions.
* Make use of underlines and **boldface**.
* Use graphs and figures whenever possible. Make your poster visually pleasing and attractive.
* Programs like MS PowerPoint can be helpful in making your poster.

## Thank you for presenting at ISTSS!