

BICH 368L - Biochemistry of the Cell - 2012 POSTER SESSION GUIDELINES

A poster session will be conducted during the last week of laboratory. Working with a partner, you will review the available literature on a metabolic disorder. Instead of writing a review paper, you will present your findings as a poster that will be evaluated by the instructors and other students of the class.

Choice of topic:

You are free to choose any metabolic disorder that you would like, but you must satisfy two criteria.

- 1) The topic must be current so you can review recent primary literature.
- 2) You must explain the disorder on a biochemical level.

Library Research:

It is important to begin planning your poster early. Choose your topic with your partner and conduct a thorough search to see if there is good, current research information available. You will probably need to do some interlibrary loans to get many of the relevant papers. The Internet is a reasonable place to get some initial information, but you must be choosy! Your poster must include primary literature references.

Poster Layout:

The space available for your poster will be three feet by four feet. Try to arrange your poster so the information is presented generally from top to bottom and from left to right. The title should extend across most of the top of the poster. There are numerous examples of posters throughout Keyes and Arey, so use these examples to get some ideas of how to do an effective poster layout (and perhaps how not to do one!).

Poster Contents: Your poster should include

- 1) The **TITLE**, which should be as descriptive as possible (simply naming the disease is not appropriate).
- 2) The names of the **AUTHORS** and their **AFFILIATION(S)**.
- 3) The **ABSTRACT**, which should summarize the poster briefly. The abstract is normally submitted well before the poster session and is published in the meeting program. Generally, it is very important to be clear, concise, and complete to try to get people to come to view your poster, although, in this case, you will have a captive audience.
- 4) The **INTRODUCTION** should define the metabolic disorder and outline the significance and goals of your review.
- 5) The **DATA** and **RESULTS REVIEW** should present data and results from the papers you have reviewed during the poster preparation. These sections could

include figures and tables from the literature (cited correctly), as well as summarized data tables or figures that you generate from your review.

6) The CONCLUSIONS section should review the state of our understanding of the disease or disorder at this time. A final assessment of available therapies and future research directions should also be presented here.

7) The REFERENCES section contains all the sources used to generate the information presented in your poster.

Preparing Your Poster for Printing- PLAN AHEAD AND ARRANGE FOR A PRINT DATE WELL BEFORE THE DUE DATE!! :

1. Poster presentations can be set up on a Mac or a PC, but the PC tends to work better. All presentations should be set up on a single Microsoft Powerpoint slide.
 - To set the size of the slide go to File...Page Setup...and then enter the width (48) and height (36) in inches. The poster should be printed in a landscape format.
 - Appropriate font sizes are in the range of 24-36 point for text, 48-60 for headings, and 76-90 for titles. Certainly experiment with font size before printing the final poster.
 - Images that will be blown up exceptionally large should be saved in a high-resolution format. High-resolution TIFFS and JPEGS work fairly well, but if you lift a small picture off of the web, chances are it will become pixelated when blown up.
 - Note that fancy backgrounds often cause failure during the printing process and are probably best avoided. (Likewise with fancy fonts.)
 - There will be a half-inch border on the final poster.
 - Make sure that you have printed your poster on a color printer and checked it over carefully before initiating poster printing, which is very expensive.
 - To be safe, you may wish to write up the various sections in Word so that you have a back-up if your Powerpoint file becomes corrupted. More than one group has lost their entire poster right before printing in years past and had to start over.
2. Posters can be printed by the Instructional Media Specialist in the Language Resource Center (Lovejoy 406). See the instructions at <http://www.colby.edu/lrc/poster.php>, which also has a poster template available. Make sure that you arrange to print your poster well in advance; things get pretty busy around the end of the semester with the Undergraduate Research Symposium going on! Posters also tend to take several hours to print off, and sometimes there are technical glitches in the printing. If you try to print your poster the morning of the poster session, you are likely to be standing next to a blank bulletin board.

Evaluation:

Your posters will be evaluated by your instructors using additional evaluative comments from the other students in the course as well as any special guests, such as other faculty members. The following criteria will be used to evaluate your posters:

- 1) Presentation - Is the poster laid out well? Are all of the graphics and wording of appropriate size and quality? Does the poster grab the viewer's interest? Is the coloring attractive?
- 2) Organization - Is the work easily understood and accurate?
- 3) Topic - Is the topic relevant and timely? Are excellent recent references included?
- 4) Depth - Are all relevant aspects of the topic addressed? Is the treatment of the topic at an appropriate level for the audience (Biochemistry students and faculty)?
- 5) Presentation – Did you explain your poster effectively during the poster session? Were you able to answer questions?

Poster Session Deadlines:

- Spring break: Topic due! This is a first-come, first-served situation; no more than one poster per topic. Prof. Millard will coordinate topics for both sections, so you must clear your topic with her.
- Week of April 9th: The lab period will be used to meet with your instructor and go over the literature that you have accumulated so far. The rest of the lab time will be used to work on your posters.
- Week of April 23th: The lab period will be used to work on your posters.
- Week of April 30th: Posters will be presented in the Science Complex during the lab periods. **All posters must be up by 1:00 on May 1st.** You must stand by your poster only on your regular lab day.