

LINKEDIN AND TWITTER

The Biomedical Science Careers Program (BSCP) has recently expanded its presence on social media to better connect with students/fellow participants, highlight available research/internship/job opportunities and celebrate the successes of the organization.

Follow us and join the conversation!



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TIPS ON PRESENTING YOUR RESEARCH

On Friday, April 3 Giorgio Giatsidis, MD, PhD, an assistant professor in the Division of Plastic Surgery at the University of Massachusetts Medical School, will participate in a panel at the 15th biennial Biomedical Science Careers Student Conference on “How to Write an Abstract and Present a Poster.” Giatsidis has been a poster judge at the New England Science Symposium three times.

“When you have done scientific work, it’s always good to share it,” Giatsidis says. “Sharing is a pillar of scientific advancement.” He breaks down the three primary means of doing this as publication, oral presentations and poster presentations. The goal, he says, is to get feedback and advance research, adding that anyone at any stage of his or her career should consider it.

Generally, poster presentations are done early in people’s careers, including when they are students. They are easier to do in a less stressful environment. And, he says, making posters helps researchers and other scientists develop skills for oral presenting. The two, he stresses, are not interchangeable.

From a skills perspective, presenting helps people with all communication skills, Giatsidis says. “You can leverage this and use it anywhere,” he notes. “When we try to improve the way we communicate with others, we’re improving our internal communication. It helps us focus, be more precise.”

In his April discussion Giatsidis will expand on what he sees as key points for a good poster presentation:

1. Less is more. For posters and oral presentations, you have limited time to transmit your research to someone else. Use the time to your best advantage. Get your main message across clearly. Keep it focused and highlight key messages.
2. The main advantage of posters and oral presentations is that they are highly visual. Make sure you mostly use images and limit text, which is best used in publications instead, to the minimum necessary to understand the images.
3. Prioritize information visually, using layout and formatting to simultaneously guide the eyes and minds of those listening to you.

For an oral presentation, the slides can just be figures because the presenter is always there, talking the audience through information. Little or no text is necessary (often just a title) because the presenter’s voice provides the commentary. Slides should also be limited to stay focused: one slide per minute of presentation is a good rule of thumb (e.g., 10 slides for 10 minutes).

Giatsidis advises students, “It’s never too early to start thinking about doing presentations. It’s not something you learn and you’re done. It’s something you learn and you keep refining with time.”

If you are planning to attend the April Conference, mark this talk on your calendars. ■

