



How to develop a Scientific research poster Sponsored by the Massage Therapy Foundation

What is a research poster presentation?

A poster is a common method used to present research at professional conferences. The purpose of a poster presentation is to expose individuals to a large variety of research in an efficient manner. A poster session allows conference attendees the opportunity to see and learn about more research than afforded during an oral presentation. This type of presentation also provides the opportunity for conference attendees to meet the researchers and discuss face-to-face the research results.

What information is included on a research poster and what is the format?

A research poster contains the same information as an abstract but with a bit more detail. Although there is no set presentation style, scientific research posters follow a fairly standard format and typically include the following sections:

- Title section – Succinctly describes the project as well as the individuals involved in the research, their affiliations and credentials.
- Introduction – Identifies a gap in the existing knowledge in the field and builds an argument for why the presented study is needed. This section should also state the study hypothesis or research question and have appropriate references to literature.
- Methodology - Describes the methods that were used to help address the stated hypothesis or research question. Adequate details should be presented to allow the reader to have a good understanding of how and what was done in the study, but there is often insufficient space for an exhaustive presentation of the methods. Some examples of methodologies may include case reports, survey research, educational studies, or clinical

trials. Any type of study methodology may be supported through the use of quantitative and/or qualitative outcomes.

- Results – Results of the study are reported here along with illustrations such as tables and/or graphs. In this section, data gathered from the study should be reduced to some understandable trends or evidence.
- Discussion/Conclusions – A discussion includes interpretations supported by both the data presented and the background information from the existing literature. This section lists the main findings of the study in a succinct statement or two. This section may also include recommendations for future work or research in the topic area and how the project could be expanded in the future.
- References/Literature Cited – All references used in the research study should be cited in the appropriate style.

How can I participate in the Massage Therapy Foundation poster session?

If you have recent research results you would like to share, submit an abstract to Gini Ohlson and Christine Daskais at the Massage Therapy Foundation for consideration (see email addresses below). Abstracts are reviewed by Massage Therapy Foundation volunteers for inclusion in the poster sessions held during the annual AMTA National Convention.

For more information contact the Massage Therapy Foundation:
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