



## In-person Poster Walkthrough Guidelines for Advocates

GRASP brings scientists and patient advocates together for a discussion about scientific posters. GRASP in-person poster walkthroughs will include small groups of 1-2 patient advocates of all levels of experience, one experienced advocate that serves as the mentor, and the poster author.

Patient Advocate	A person whose life has been impacted by cancer (e.g., either as a patient or caregiver)
Mentor	Experienced patient advocate who serves as the <u>facilitator</u> and point person for the walkthrough
Poster Author	A clinician or researcher who serves as the <u>presenter</u> of a scientific poster

During the in-person poster walkthroughs, the GRASP Mentors will facilitate a scientific poster discussion between the poster author and 1-2 patient advocates. The groups will physically walk through the poster session together and will approach poster authors standing at their respective posters to discuss the details of the poster.

Less like a presentation, and more like a conversation, advocates are encouraged to share their experiences as people whose lives have been impacted by cancer either as a person who has been diagnosed with cancer, or as a person caring for someone with cancer.

## How to Prepare:

- Register for an [optional training session](#) to help you understand your respective role during the GRASP session.
- Watch this [training video](#) that explains how GRASP discussions work.
- You will be notified of the GRASP Mentor to which you have been assigned along with their contact information. The mentor will reach out to you before the conference to introduce themselves, to answer any questions you may have, and if you like, to agree upon a time to meet up before the start of the poster session.
- Review the [conference page](#) to learn more about the GRASP mentors serving in this poster walkthrough.

## Day-of Instructions:

- Convene as one group at the poster session hall during the start of the designated time – look for the large GRASP sign!
- Find your GRASP Mentor - mentors will have small handheld GRASP signs and will be wearing GRASP pins to identify themselves as GRASP Mentors.
- If you have not already done so, take time to introduce yourselves and to learn about each other's research and advocacy interests.
- After introductions, decide together as a group which posters to review.
- Once the poster has been identified for review, the GRASP Mentor will initiate discussions with poster authors.
- The GRASP Mentor will guide the group through introductions and will ask the poster author to begin reviewing their respective posters. Mentors will slow the discussion down when a concept requires more explanation and move the discussion along once all participants are on the same page.
- Patient advocates are encouraged to respectfully interrupt the scientist and/or poster author to ask questions when seeking clarification and/or to share their cancer experiences. While interruptions are okay and encouraged, please be careful to monitor your "air time" (i.e. don't dominate the discussion!) to ensure a balanced conversation.

## Dos and Don'ts:

- **DO NOT ask for medical advice.**
- **DO NOT perform other activities while participating in the GRASP session** (e.g., talking on phone). Be present and give the group your undivided attention.
- **DO observe the process** and make notes of things we need to improve upon, change, or modify. Surveys will be sent after the session.
- **DO HAVE FUN!** Remember that you do not need a science background to participate in this discussion. All you need to bring to the discussion, you already know: How your life and your community have been impacted by your cancer diagnosis (and/or the diagnosis of a loved one). Researchers are experts in studying cancer, clinicians are experts in treating patients with cancer, but YOU are the expert in living with cancer.

## Frequently Asked Questions:

- **Will there be GRASP Scientists participating in the poster walkthroughs?** Unlike the virtual poster walkthroughs, there will be no assigned GRASP Scientists for the in-person poster walkthroughs. The poster authors are also scientists by training, and they will fulfill this role.
- **Will there be poster assignments?** No - there will be no poster assignments, you can decide as a group which posters you want to review.
- **How many posters should the groups review?** There is no limit to the number of posters the groups review. For virtual poster walkthroughs, we review 2 posters in a 1.5-hour session.
- **What if a poster the group wants to review does not have a poster author?** We recommend reviewing posters with a poster author or scientist present. Try to identify the name and contact information of the poster author – we may be able to coordinate a GRASP Huddle at a later time to review the poster virtually.
- **What if a poster the group wants to review is very busy with a lot of people around it?** We recommend reviewing posters that are not very busy with very few people around to allow for time to introduce the concept of GRASP to the poster author, and to allow for advocates to interrupt with questions.
- **What should I do if other people approach that aren't officially part of the poster walkthrough?** Invite them to join the discussion and encourage them to become GRASP members! GRASP Mentors can provide them with a business card that includes a QR code to join GRASP and participate in future opportunities.