



Guidelines for Huddles

GRASP facilitates a virtual dialogue where scientists and patient advocates come together for cancer research discussions through Zoom. Huddles are freestanding interactive cancer discussions, similar to GRASP’s Poster Walkthroughs, but developed to meet the increasing demand for interactions between patients and researchers beyond cancer conferences.

Huddles can be patient- or researcher-initiated and may include a review of scientific posters, publications, or projects. Huddles can also serve as a focus group to solicit feedback from patient advocates, whether as cancer survivors or caregivers. Unlike traditional presentations, GRASP adopts a conversational approach where advocates are encouraged to share their personal experiences, shedding light on the profound impact of cancer on their lives.

GRASP Huddles consist of 4-5 patient advocates with all levels of experience, accompanied by a seasoned advocate serving as a mentor, and a scientist (either clinician or researcher).

Patient Advocate	A person whose life has been impacted by cancer, whether as a patient or caregiver
GRASP Mentor	An experienced patient advocate serving as the session’s facilitator and point person
GRASP Scientist	A clinician or researcher serving as an interpreter to help explain the science in simpler terms

How to Prepare:

- Watch the [instructional videos](#) which explain the format of GRASP Huddles, your respective responsibilities, as well as tips and recommendations.
- Your [member dashboard](#) has everything you need in one place - view your registered Huddles, instructional videos, and these guidelines.

Roles & Responsibilities:

- **GRASP Mentors** will facilitate the session starting with quick introductions, then inviting the scientist to begin the discussion. Mentors may pause the discussion to elaborate on concepts that need

clarification and move the discussion along once all participants are on the same page.

- **GRASP Scientists** will provide 1) an overview of the main takeaways, 2) background and context of key scientific concepts, 3) interpretation of any graphs or figures, and 4) clarification of technical terms.
- **Patient advocates** are encouraged to respectfully interrupt the scientist to ask questions, seek clarification, and/or to share their cancer experiences.
- All participants should observe the process and take notes on areas of improvement. Surveys will be sent after the session.

Tips for Effective Communication:

- **GRASP Mentors** should model bi-directional conversations between advocates and scientists, including tactful interruptions or redirections, encouraging advocate questions, ensuring scientists address advocate questions, and intervening if discussions become overly technical.
- **GRASP Scientists** should make every effort to enrich the participants' experience by leading an inclusive dialogue throughout the session. Engage with both the mentor and advocates, taking time to ask questions that will gain insight into their perspectives on how cancer has impacted them. If you are unable to answer a question, be honest and say, "I don't know." You can always follow up with the group after the session.
- **Patient advocates** are encouraged to respectfully interrupt, but please be mindful of monitoring your "air time" (i.e., don't dominate the discussion!) to ensure a balanced conversation. Advocates are not to seek medical advice during the session.

Do's and Don'ts

DO's
DO attend! GRASP is unlike a webinar - your absence affects group dynamics in these small group discussions.
DO join the Zoom session 5-10 minutes early to account for any technical difficulties that may arise.
DO turn your cameras ON for the duration of the session. GRASP is intended to simulate a face-to-face conversation.
DON'Ts
DO NOT cancel your registration last minute or the day of the Zoom session.
ADVOCATES: DO NOT seek medical advice during the session.
DO NOT perform other activities while participating in the session (e.g. driving, eating, talking on phone). Be present and give the group your undivided attention.