



In-person Poster Meetup Guidelines for Advocates

GRASP brings scientists and patient advocates together for an in-person discussion about scientific posters at select cancer conferences. During the in-person Poster Meetups, **a seasoned patient advocate serving as the GRASP Mentor will facilitate a scientific poster discussion between the poster author, GRASP Scientist, and 2-4 patient advocates with all levels of experience.**

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 <i>facilitator</i> and point person
GRASP Scientist	A clinician or researcher serving as an <i>interpreter</i> to help explain the science in simpler terms
Poster Author	A clinician or researcher serving as the <i>presenter</i> of a scientific poster selected by GRASP

The groups will physically walk through the poster session together and will approach poster authors to discuss their scientific posters. Unlike traditional presentations, GRASP adopts a conversational approach, keeping groups small to ensure every voice is heard. Advocates are encouraged to share their personal experiences, whether as cancer survivors or caregivers, shedding light on the profound impact of cancer on their lives.

How to Prepare:

- Watch the [instructional videos](#) explaining the format of GRASP Poster Meetups, your respective responsibilities, as well as tips and FAQs.

- You will be notified of the GRASP Mentor and Scientist (if participating), along with their contact information. The mentor will reach out to introduce themselves before the conference, answer any questions you may have, and, if you wish, arrange a time to meet before the start of the poster session.
- Review the [conference page](#) to learn more about the GRASP Mentors and if participating, the Scientists, serving in this Poster Meetup and to identify them in person at the conference.

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 for easy identification.
- If you haven't already done so, introduce yourselves and share your research and advocacy interests.
- After introductions, find your assigned posters to review. If posters have not been assigned, decide together as a group which posters to review.
- Once the poster has been identified, the GRASP Mentor will initiate discussions with poster authors. The GRASP Scientist (if participating) will help interpret any technical or scientific concepts discussed by the poster author that need further explanation for a patient friendly audience.
- The GRASP Mentor will guide the group through introductions and will ask the poster author to begin reviewing their poster. Mentors will slow the discussion down when a concept requires more explanation and move the discussion along once everyone is on the same page.
- Patient advocates are encouraged to respectfully interrupt the 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.

Do's and Don'ts:

- **DO NOT ask for medical advice.**
- **DO NOT perform other activities while participating in the GRASP Poster Meetup** (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 don't need a science background to join this conversation. Your firsthand experience with cancer is invaluable. While researchers and clinicians have their expertise, remember, you're the expert in navigating life with cancer.

Frequently Asked Questions:

- **Will there be GRASP Scientists participating in the Poster Meetups?** The answer varies depending on the conference. Check the [conference page](#) to learn more about who will be participating in the Poster Meetup. If there is no GRASP Scientist, the poster authors are also scientists by training, and they will fulfill this role.
- **Will there be poster assignments?** The answer varies depending on the conference. If there are poster assignments, you will be notified. If not, you can decide as a group which posters you want to review.
- **How many posters should the groups review?** The answer varies depending on how much time is allotted to the poster session. Typically groups review 2 posters in a 1.5-hour session, but this number can vary.
- **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 their name and contact information – we may be able to coordinate a future discussion (or GRASP Huddle) 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 less busy and have fewer people around. This allows time to introduce the concept of GRASP to the poster author and provides an opportunity for advocates to interrupt with questions.
- **What should I do if other people approach that aren't officially part of the Poster Meetup?** Invite them to join the discussion and encourage them to become GRASP members! GRASP Mentors can provide them with a business card which includes a QR code to join GRASP and participate in future opportunities.