



In-person Poster Meetup Guidelines for Mentors

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, the **GRASP Mentors 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 Scientist (if participating) and advocates to whom you've been assigned, along with their contact information. Reach out to the participants to introduce yourself, to answer any questions they may have, and if you like, to agree upon a time to meet before the start of the poster session.

- Advocates will be provided guidelines, instructional videos, and a [conference page](#) with the bios and pictures of the GRASP Mentors and Scientists (if participating) to help them identify you at the conference.

Day-of Instructions:

- GRASP Mentors will be provided the following items before the poster session to help identify themselves as GRASP-affiliated:
 - Small handheld GRASP signs
 - GRASP pins to wear
 - GRASP business cards
- Convene as one group at the poster session hall during the start of the designated time – look for the large GRASP sign!
- Find the GRASP Scientist (if participating) and advocates assigned to you. If you haven't already done so, take time to introduce yourselves and learn about the advocates' research and advocacy interests, as well as their level of advocacy experience.
- 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 by:
 - Asking if they would be interested in participating in a discussion with patient advocates. Some poster authors may be notified ahead of time and have already confirmed their participation.
 - Providing a thorough explanation of how GRASP Poster Meetups work and how they create bidirectional learning opportunities between scientists and patient advocates.
 - “Warning” them that advocates are encouraged to interrupt with questions and that it is not intended to be disrespectful.
 - Guiding the group through introductions
- Encourage poster authors to become GRASP members (if not already!) and provide them with the business card which includes a QR code to join GRASP and participate in future opportunities.

Role of GRASP Mentors:

- Your role as a GRASP Mentor is to slow the discussion down when a concept requires more explanation, and move the discussion along once all advocates are on the same page.
- Encourage the patient advocates to respectfully interrupt the poster author to ask questions when seeking clarification and/or to share their cancer experiences.
- Ensure GRASP Scientists (if participating) and poster authors are fulfilling their responsibilities by providing 1) an overview of the main takeaways of the study, 2) background and context of the key scientific concepts, 3)

- interpretation of any graphs or figures, and 4) clarification of any technical terms.
- Observe the process and make notes of things we need to improve upon, change, or modify. Surveys will be sent after the session.

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! You can provide them with the business card which includes a QR code to join GRASP and participate in future opportunities.

Tips for Mentors from Experienced Advocates:

- **Model bi-directional conversations between advocates and scientists.** This may include respectfully interrupting or redirecting the scientists, prompting the advocates to ask questions, ensuring the scientists address the advocates' questions, and intervening if discussions become overly technical.
- **Be yourself and have fun!** Reviewing the posters is not a competition, so remember that it's quality not quantity that matters. These can be weighty topics and while we are talking about things that are serious, feel free to use humor to lighten the situation if that's your style. Don't be afraid of silence and don't be afraid to be truly yourself.