GUIDING RESEARCHERS & ADVOCATES TO SCIENTIFIC PARTNERSHIPS

In-person Poster Meetup Guidelines for Poster Authors

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

Poster authors will be approached by small groups of advocates (and possibly a GRASP Scientist) physically walking through the poster session 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.
- Review the conference page to learn more about the GRASP Mentors and Scientists (if participating) serving in this Poster Meetup and to identify them in person at the conference.

The Process:

- The patient advocates and GRASP Scientist (if participating) will convene as one group at the poster session hall during the start of the designated time.

- GRASP Mentors will have small handheld GRASP signs for easy identification.
- The GRASP Mentor will approach your poster to ask if you would be interested in participating in a discussion with patient advocates. If you agree, the GRASP Mentor will then guide the group through introductions and will invite you to begin reviewing the poster.
- Mentors will pause the discussion to elaborate on concepts that need clarification and move the discussion along once all participants are on the same page.
- The GRASP Scientist will help interpret any technical or scientific concepts discussed by you as the poster author that need further explanation for a patient friendly audience.
- Patient advocates are encouraged to respectfully interrupt you to seek clarification or share their cancer experiences.

Poster Author Responsibilities:

- Develop a 2-5 minute “elevator pitch” that provides a high-level discussion focusing on key highlights of your poster, including how the research impacts patients.
- Ensure a positive experience by creating a dialogue among all session participants.
- Defer to the mentor's cadence and seek feedback about what you have explained. Engage with both the mentor and advocates, asking questions to gain insights into their perspectives on how cancer has impacted them.
- Observe the process and make notes of potential areas of improvement. Surveys will be sent after the session.

Tips for Effective Communication:

- Encourage patient advocates to share their thoughts on the study’s main takeaways — this will likely generate questions and discussion.
- If you are unable to answer a question, be honest and say, “I don’t know.” You can always follow up with the advocates after the session.
- Identify the experimental design: 1) pre-clinical research, 2) clinical trial, 3) interventional trial, 4) observational trial. Further classify the research: 1) treatment- biologic or drug, 2) quality of life, 3) genetic/genomic, 4) epidemiological, 5) symptom management, 6) supportive care.
- Provide background and context to the key scientific concepts (e.g., explain rationale for the clinical trial design, etc.). The poster tells a story – what experiments are used to tell that story (if basic or translational).
- Help interpret what type of science is being communicated. For example, if there is a Kaplan-Meyer curve, describe the x and y axes, the significance of how steep the curve is, if it is OS versus PFS, and why all these terms matter.
- Clarify any technical terms (e.g., molecular profiling, epigenetic testing, etc.).