MDIBL POSTER FORMAT GUIDE

Posters should stimulate discussion, not give a long presentation. Keep text to a minimum and emphasize graphics.

Required Elements

Title – Your poster should include a banner title. Below the title, list the authors and institutions in a slightly smaller font.

Introduction – Introduce the research question, give a small amount of background, and identify your hypothesis and the purpose of your study. Consider using bullet points.

Methods – Describe the experiments and protocols employed in your study.

Results – The results of your study appear here, illustrated by the majority of your figures. Present only the most pertinent results. Check that the figures are large and easily read.

Conclusion – Interpret your results. Compare or contrast your findings to those from the scientific literature. Suggest further experiments or research that would build upon your study.

Format and Design

Poster boards are free-standing and <mark>vertical</mark>. The poster boards are **45.75" wide by 69.25" tall** and are fabric covered (please do not attempt to cover the entire height of the poster board with your poster 42 inches wide by 40 – 50 inches high is a reasonable size). Proper velcro fasteners will be provided.

Fonts – Your poster should be easily read from a distance of 4 ft. Use contrasting fonts for the title, text and figure legends. (e.g. – Times for the text, and Arial for the title and figure legends)

Title: 90 – 95 pt.
Headings (Methods, etc.): 90 pt.
Text: 28 – 36 pt.
Lit Cited: 18 – 20 pt.

Layout – Make a scale model of your poster on graph paper using colored paper or post-it notes to design the most effective layout. Design the poster in three or four columns. Related text and graphics should be adjacent. Related text and graphics can be enclosed in a box.

Background color should be white or a neutral color that is easy on the eyes.

Print a miniature version of your poster on 8.5 X 11 paper. Choose 'Fit to size' under the print command, and choose letter-sized paper. If your text is too small to read on the miniature version, it will be too small to read on the final poster. Same is true for pictures and figures – the graphical elements of your poster should be sharp and clear on the miniature printout. The miniature printout can also serve as a handout to provide during the poster session.

If you do not wish to print your poster on wide format paper, a panelized poster (a series of small letter sized cells in a series), will work well.

Resources:

Colin Purrington, Designing Conference Posters,
        http://colinpurrington.com/tips/academic/posterdesign
Better Posters Blog
        http://betterposters.blogspot.com/
Powell K. Presentations: Billboard science. Nature. 483:113-115, 2012.
        http://www.nature.com/naturejobs/science/articles/10.1038/nj7387-113a