

Dear Poster Presenter:

Thank you for your abstract submission for the ABA's 41st Annual Meeting in San Antonio. Listed below are some important guidelines regarding the posters set-up and related issues. If you have any questions after reviewing this material, please call the ABA Central office at (312) 642-9260.

2009 POSTER SESSION

Abstracts scheduled for presentation in the poster session will be grouped by topic, numbered and listed in the program and published in the Program Book. The program book number will correspond to the poster board number. **Posters must be mounted on Tuesday, March 24 between 9:00 am – 3:00 pm or Wednesday, March 25 between 6:30 am – 9:00 am in the Exhibit Hall. Posters must be dismantled on Thursday, March 26 between 2:00 pm –4:00 pm.** If you are unable to dismantle your poster during the designated times, please select someone from your unit to dismantle the poster. Posters remaining after 4:00 pm on Thursday, March 26 will be discarded.

GUIDELINES

Posters should be readable by viewers five feet away. The message should be clear and understandable without oral explanation. The poster board area is 4' high by 8' long—your poster must fit within this area. The following guidelines have been prepared to help improve the effectiveness of poster communication.

1. **INITIAL SKETCH** - Plan your poster early. Focus your attention on a few key points. Try various styles of data presentation to achieve clarity and simplicity. Does the use of color help? What needs to be expressed in words? Suggest headlines and text topics.
2. **ROUGH LAYOUT** - Enlarge your best initial sketch, keeping the dimensions in proportion to the final poster. Ideally, the rough layout should be full size. Print the title and headlines. Indicate text by horizontal lines. Draw rough graphs and tables. This will give you a good idea of proportions and balance. If you are working with an artist, show him or her the poster layout. Ask associates for comments. This is still an experimental stage.
3. **FINAL LAYOUT** - The artwork is complete. The text and tables are typed but not necessarily enlarged to full size. Now ask, is the message clear? Do the important points stand out? Is there balance between words and illustrations? Is there spatial balance? Is the pathway through the poster clear?
4. **BALANCE** - The figures and tables should cover slightly more than 50% of the poster area. If you have only a few illustrations, make them large. Do not omit the text, but keep it brief. The poster should be understandable without oral explanation.
5. **TYPOGRAPHY** - Avoid abbreviations, acronyms, and jargon. Use a consistent type style throughout. Use large type, for example. An 8.5" by 11" sheet of paper photostatically enlarged 50% makes the text readable from 5 feet away.

6. EYE MOVEMENT - The movement (pathway) of the eye over the poster should be natural -- down the columns or along the rows. Size attracts attention. Arrows, pointing hands, numbers and letters can help clarify the sequence.
7. SIMPLICITY - The temptation to overload the poster should be resisted. More material may mean less communication.

POSTER SESSION STAFFING

Staff your poster on Wednesday, March 25 from 12:15 pm – 1:15 pm during “Poster Rounds with the Professors and Authors,” which ABA program moderators and colleagues visit posters within an assigned group; each author is expected to make a two to three minute oral presentation, with a few minutes allotted for Q & A by the moderators and attendee. In addition, **staff your poster on Wednesday, March 26** from 5:00 pm-6:00 pm during the Wine and Cheese Reception. This is an informal time for members and colleagues to view your poster individually and ask questions.

The MAC will again honor the top three posters submitted with input from the professors who make rounds and selected MAC members. In conjunction with the awards there is an honorarium for placement in the contest. In addition, you are encouraged to submit a manuscript to the *Journal of Burn Care and Research*.

We look forward to seeing you in San Antonio.