

NEXT WAVE

FORUM *for* YOUNG INVESTIGATORS

in THORACIC ONCOLOGY

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PRESENTATION SKILLS PANEL DISCUSSION

My abstract got selected for an oral presentation at a major meeting: How should I go about it?

Tina Cascone, MD, PhD

Associate Professor,
Department of Thoracic/Head and Neck Medical Oncology MD Anderson
Cancer Center
Houston, TX

Establish a timeline

Inform and congratulate all co-authors and members of the team (sponsor, program leadership)

ASCO 2019:

- ~ 6,000 abstracts reviewed by Scientific Program Committee and ASCO Leadership
 - ~ 2,600 online publication only
 - ~ 1,900 poster presentation
 - ~ 430 poster discussion
 - ~ 420 education session
 - ~ 375 oral presentation (7% of all submitted; 10% of accepted for presentation)

Inform the members of the team early on that you will be reaching out to them with a timeline to organize the work and collect updated results

Establish a timeline (cont.)

- Check the key dates from acceptance to deadline submission (early April to mid-May)

Confirm participation, know presentation deadlines

Deadline of preliminary slides for your discussant: ~ first week of May

- Create a timeline for your team to provide updated results

Work with the clinical trial and data coordinators to ensure accurate capturing of updated data

Engage statisticians and bioinformaticians early on

Involve scientists and lab researchers for updated/new results of translational studies

- Create a timeline for you to build an effective presentation

Clear time on your schedule

Avoid last minute preparation

Set regular meetings with all teams involved to stay within their timeline and your timeline

Build an effective presentation: General tips

- Check oral presenter guidelines and presentation format/template on website/speaker center

Disclosure slide and presentation permissions

Presentation time: xx minutes – stay within the allotted time

Live Q&A panel with all session participants

- Understand your audience

Do not assume everyone is an expert on your topic

Capture a larger portion of your audience with easy-to-understand background

- Design clear and effective slides

Avoid too much text

Use common read fonts

Use high resolution tables and charts/graphs

How to build your presentation: Presentation sections

Create a narrative

- Thank the organizers for the opportunity to present your work

- Divide your presentation into clear sections

Background and rationale

- Current state of knowledge – what is known

- Gap in knowledge – what is not known but critical to the field

- Supporting findings (e.g., preclinical, retrospective analyses etc.)

- State your research question to fill the gap

Design and Methodology

- Trial schema, flow chart with translational studies

- Study hypothesis and endpoints

- Statistical design and methodology

How to build your presentation: Presentation sections (cont.)

Results

Study enrollment, population characteristics, treatment disposition

Point out distribution across treatment groups and any imbalances

State in your title the message your results convey

Was the primary endpoint met? Create a logical flow (primary, secondary and exploratory outcomes)

Use figures/tables to emphasize key points

Conclusions and Future Directions

Summarize your key findings

Ongoing and future studies based on your findings

Publication status

Acknowledgment

- Patients and families, mentor/s, team members, sponsors, funding sources (ASCO YIA or CDA)
- It takes a village = Team science

Be an expert on your topic

- Review the literature relevant to your presentation
- Be familiar with the topics presented by your colleagues in your session
- Take note of the comments to the other speakers in your session
- Understand the implications that your findings may have on the field
- Establish a dialogue with your discussant to facilitate their role as commentator of your work and provide an appropriate framework for discussion
- Know the future directions your results may point to

Rehearse your presentation and potential Q&A

- Consider writing down talking points to keep you on track
- Time yourself on each slide and make any necessary adjustment to stay on time

Decide which slides you will be spending more vs. less time

- Rehearse your presentation with your team and by yourself in the meeting practice room
- Rehearse in departmental seminars to get feedback and practice responses to potential Qs

- When preparing for potential questions:

Acknowledge the individual's interest in your work

You know the details of your study better than anyone else

Questions open new directions and can expand and improve your work

Prepare for the press and social media

- Impactful presentations capture the attention of the press: prepare for interviews
Key findings of your work, impact of your findings on the field, future directions
- Provide input and review highlights of your work from ASCO meeting and other agencies
- Opportunity to impact other young investigators' work
- Powerful platforms to promote your career
- Opportunity to be recognized by potential donors that could support your future studies

Celebrate your achievement

- Celebrate your achievement with your mentors and your team!
- Understand your work is impactful and you are contributing to the field
- Use this success as an opportunity to fuel more success (recruitment, publications etc.)