



Clostrpath 2019 Conference

Flash Talk

Introduction

At the Clostrpath 2019 conference you can participate in the 'Flash Talk' competition. During the abstract selection process the Scientific Committee nominates certain abstracts from trainees (students and postdoctoral fellows) to participate in this competition. The selected poster presenters can give a Flash Talk presentation of three minutes during the session prior to the postersession that day. This talk will serve as an "advertisement" for their poster.

The Flash Talks are based on the popular 3 Minute Thesis competition that was developed originally at the University of Queensland, Australia (<https://threeminutethesis.uq.edu.au>) and has spread worldwide. In the business world the idea of giving an "elevator speech" is common. The goal is to rapidly pitch an idea to an audience or individual in a limited amount of time and with limited or no visual aids such as PowerPoint slides. This sort of competition has been utilized effectively at a number of recent international scientific meetings and will hopefully represent a fun and exciting addition to this year's ClostrPath.

Instructions

The rules for the Flash Talk competition are as follows:

- The presenter has exactly 3 minutes to present their talk. The timer will not allow any additional time once three minutes have expired.
- All slides will be preloaded onto the presentation computer and the timer will start as soon as the first slide appears on the screen.
- Up to three PowerPoint slides are allowed. No sound is permitted nor are animations/segmentations allowed. A video can be shown but this will count as one slide. Presentation formatting should be set for a 16:9 ratio.

Inspiration

While up to three slides are allowed, it is interesting to note that the original three-minute thesis competition allowed only a single slide. As you can see from the videos below these were not even data slides but were a "visual aid" to provide a striking image for the talk. These were actually talks from competition winners. (<https://vimeo.com/185754339>, <https://vimeo.com/183241953>)

The NIH had a similar competition and the following video shows one of the winner's talks. In this case the slides did show data but the presenter didn't spend time pointing at the data on the figure it was again a visual aid that supplemented the speaker's oral presentation.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b6POjZMaC_w&feature=youtu.be

We intend for this to be an enjoyable and educational experience for our trainees. Communication is an essential part of any scientist's job. Being able to concisely express the core of your work and excite the listener to want to find out more is a valuable skill throughout your career.

The following websites have some information and hints about these three-minute talks:

- <http://www.scidev.net/global/communication/practical-guide/flash-talk-science-video-guide.html>
- <https://grad.ucsd.edu/files/student-affairs/grad-slam/3MinThesisHints.pdf>
- <http://www.sciencemag.org/careers/2015/06/your-thesis-3-minutes>



See next page for some useful hints.

Some final hints specific for the ClostPath Flash Talk Competition.

- Since at least some members of the audience will be very familiar with the topic area, limit your introductory comments to that which you think is absolutely essential.
- There will be a slide up prior to your presentation that will have your name, affiliation, mentor and any acknowledgements (e.g. funding). Therefore, you can save time and space by not having this in your main presentation.
- Try to avoid having to point to any elements on your slide. While practicing your talk, if you find yourself turning around and pointing at the slides consider reformatting them so that you don't feel that you don't turn your back on the audience.
- Practice, practice, practice to make sure that you can come in under three minutes without having to feel rushed.
- Remember that one of the goals is to generate more traffic at your poster so don't feel like you have to cover everything in the three minutes. Pick one key point you want to make and folks can fill in extra details when they come to your poster.
- Relax and have fun!