

How to... give a poster presentation

CONGRATULATIONS!

Your abstract has been accepted; you'll now have to put together a poster for the Annual Conference. To help you prepare, here's some advice from the judges and finalists of the 2015 Sir Howard Dalton Young Microbiologist of the Year competition, which recognises the best early career science communicators in our membership.

THE FINALISTS



Christopher Miller

PhD student

University of Kent

Presenting my work allowed me to set the stage for later conversations and networking. Focus on the aspects of your project that YOU find most interesting, as people with the most passion are often the most interesting to watch.



Megan De Ste Croix

PhD student

University of Leicester

Stand out from the crowd: I created a talking point by using an interactive model of the system I work on. This caught people's attention, which was useful when there were so many other posters on display.

THE JUDGES

Dr Dave Whitworth

Senior Lecturer in Biochemistry

Aberystwyth University

Young Microbiologist of the Year Head Judge

Focus on explaining and illustrating the key messages from your research, and don't forget to make it visually appealing. The aesthetic impact of a poster is often overlooked, but can be nearly as important as the scientific content.



Dr Donna MacCallum

Senior Lecturer in Microbiology

University of Aberdeen

Young Microbiologist of the Year Judge

A good poster should be logically laid out. Most of the poster should consist of large, clear figures, with text kept to a minimum (mainly introduction and discussion).

To find out more about our poster requirements, see

www.microbiologysociety.org/conferences

You can find out more about the Society and the benefits of becoming a member at **www.microbiologysociety.org/membership**

TOP TIPS

- 1** Choose one key point to get across – don't overcrowd the poster.
- 2** Remember to check requirements from the conference organisers and your institution/funders, such as for branding, poster size, and poster orientation.
- 3** Relax! Show visitors why you're interested in your work.
- 4** Memorise a quick introduction to help start conversations.
- 5** Don't be afraid of questions. Most people aren't trying to catch you out and are genuinely interested in your work.



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