



**AUSTRALIAN & NEW ZEALAND  
SOCIETY OF RESPIRATORY SCIENCE Inc.**  
([www.anzsrs.org.au](http://www.anzsrs.org.au))

**Guidelines for Assessment of Presentations at Annual Scientific Meetings**

**Judging Panels**

Two judging panels will be formed for each ASM, one for assessing oral presentations and one for poster presentations. Panels will comprise 3 judges each and will be made up of senior Society members plus invited guest speakers where appropriate. Each panel will have one ANZSRS member appointed as chair. Appointment to panels will be made by the Local Organising Committee (LOC) in consultation with the Scientific & Conference Committee (SCC). Wherever possible, judges should be selected so that there is minimal potential for conflict of interest in judging the presentations. Where such an interest exists (or is potentially perceived to exist) that judge should not participate in adjudicating the particular presentations.

**The Process**

The scoresheets are used to enable judges to systematically judge various aspects of the presentation to facilitate comparisons with other presentations. It is advised that once judging has been completed, each judge ranks the presentations in order of excellence and then the panel discusses winners for the various categories. This method is preferred to using a 'best score wins' approach since this can be substantially affected by individual scoring practices. In the unlikely event that clear consensus cannot be achieved, members of the SCC can be called upon to assist in the decision making process.

This document and the respective scoresheets have been developed to aid evaluation of presentations and are intended to provide guidelines to the judging panels, but are not totally prescriptive. It is recognised that an "x-factor" or other difficult to quantify features of a presentation can add significantly to the overall quality of the presentation. Consideration of such aspects by the judges in reaching final decisions is appropriate and valid.

**The Awards**

There are three primary awards given at each ASM:

- Best Oral Presentation – is awarded to the oral presentation adjudged to best reflect quality and excellence in respiratory scientific research
- Best Poster Presentation – is awarded to the poster presentation adjudged to best reflect quality and excellence in respiratory scientific research
- Young Investigator Award (YIA) – is awarded to the oral presentation submitted for YIA eligibility as adjudged to best reflect quality and excellence in respiratory scientific research. This award is for Society members with little or no previous ASM presentation experience. Eligible presentations will be clearly identified as such. The oral presentation judging panel adjudicates the winner of this award. Note that the YIA can be withheld if the quality of presentations is not considered of sufficient merit. Whilst the minimum standard is not specifically defined, consistent scores 'above average' might be considered appropriate.

From time to time there may be other awards available for presentation at ASMs. In this instance, existing judging panels (oral or poster) will usually be asked to adjudicate on these rather than having a separate panel appointed.

### **Judging Criteria: All (Oral & Poster) Presentations**

As a general guide to evaluating the merit of the research conducted, whether qualitative or quantitative, the following points should be assessed:

#### **Introduction**

- Is the study important and worth doing?
- Is there a clear rationale for the study and are the hypotheses/aims clearly stated?
- Is it original work or, if not, how does this study differ from previous work?

#### **Methodology**

- Is the method appropriate and of suitable quality to the stated hypothesis and/or question being asked?
- Are the data collected and reported appropriately?
- Are the methods of data analysis (including statistics) appropriate to the study, and are they specified in sufficient detail?

#### **Results**

- Are the results presented in a clear, concise and relevant manner?

#### **Discussion and Conclusions**

- Are the questions posed in the study adequately addressed?
- Are the conclusions justified based on the data? Do they extrapolate beyond the data?
- Has the hypothesis been proven / disproven and is this clearly stated?
- Are the conclusions useful? Are the findings clinically/scientifically relevant and/or applicable?

### **Judging Criteria: Oral Presentations**

- Is the subject matter presented clearly and logically and was there a simple, concluding 'take-home' message?
- Is the delivery balanced and well organised?
- Is the audience engaged during the delivery?
- Is the sequence and content of slides, illustrations and other audiovisual material logical so as to ensure effective communication of information?
- How easy are the slides, illustrations or other audiovisual materials to read in terms of quality, colour, contrast, etc? Do they contain key points or is the presenter simply reading them?
- Is the amount of material presented in each slide appropriate?
- How well did the presenter handle questions?
- Did the presenter keep to time (includes avoiding rushing towards the end)?

### **Judging Criteria: Poster Presentations**

- Are the title, headings and text clearly visible from a distance of 1 - 2 metres?
- Do the major headings convey the essential message for viewers?
- Is the presentation provided in clear order for reading or does it 'flow' easily and naturally?
- Does the supporting text follow the main headings?
- Is the text clear, succinct and free of redundancy with appropriate attention to typography, spelling, grammar etc.?
- Does the poster draw attention to things which are of greater importance and subordinate visually those which are of lesser importance?
- Does the poster have a substantial amount of blank space (ideally close to 50%) or is it crowded and chaotic?
- Is the composition distracting with jagged edges, alignments which are not perfectly straight, composition which confuses and takes attention away from the content or does it exhibit long visual lines, perfectly aligned left or right (or both)?
- Does the colour and texture of the background serve to unify the poster?
- Do photographs or illustrations enhance the message or provide distraction?
- Were photographs or illustrations well integrated into the poster in terms of size, colour, text format and placement?
- How well did the presenter handle questions?