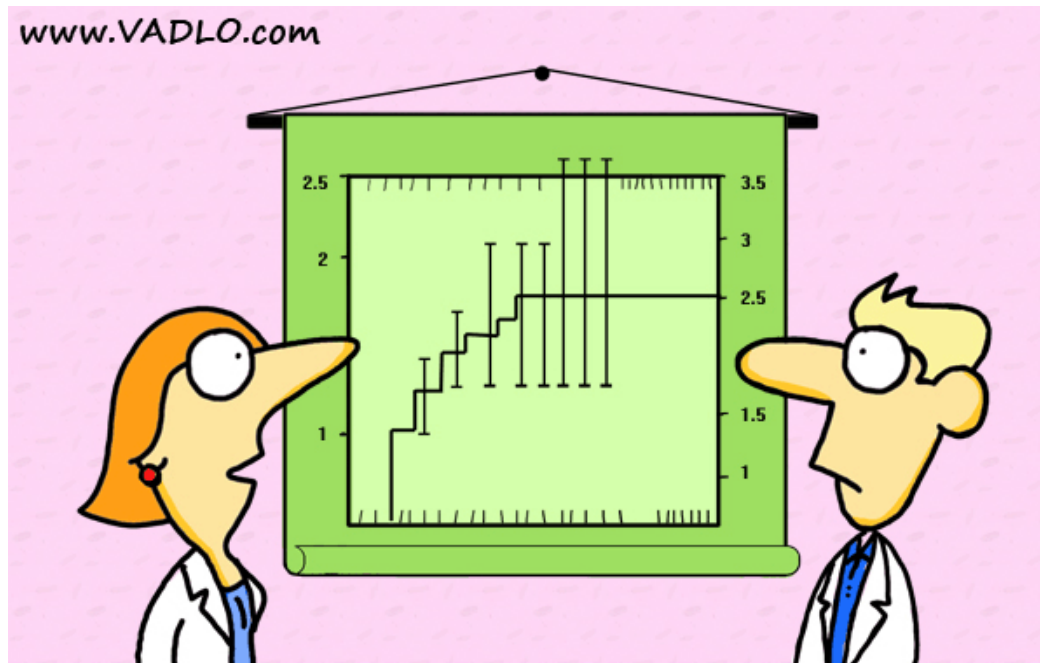


Making Scientific Posters

CFRI Summer Student Research Program

02 July 2014

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“Did you really have to show the error bars?”

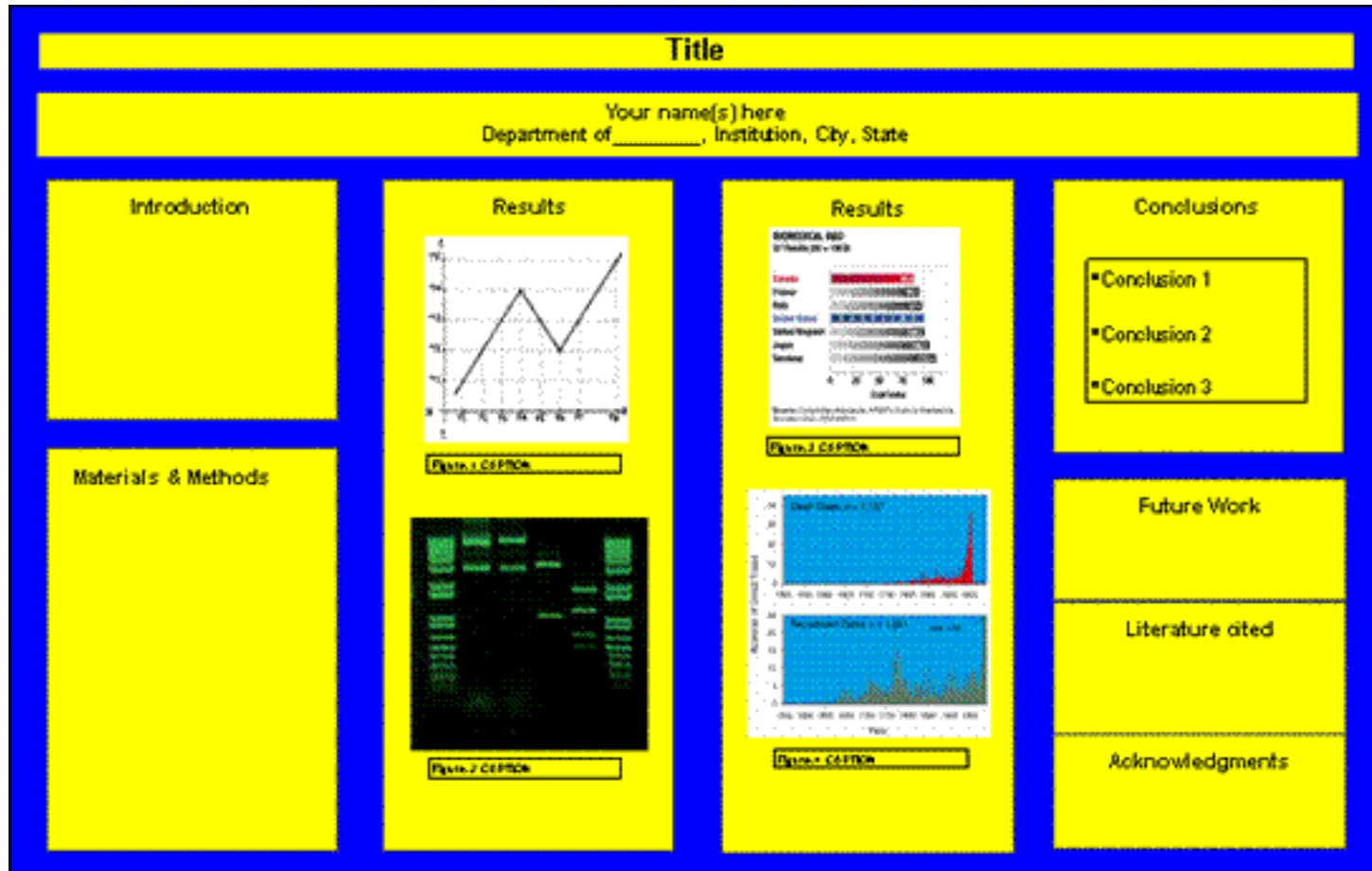
Some General Things

- Represents your work *and* your lab (supervisor)
 - Ask for your supervisor's approval first!!!
- Is a *distinct* medium to present your work from a paper or oral presentation
- Should be easily scanned by passers-by even when you are not there (**use 24-point font or bigger**)
- Should be readable from six feet away and completely readable in less than 10 minutes
- Should be explainable (by you) in less than 5 mins

Layouts

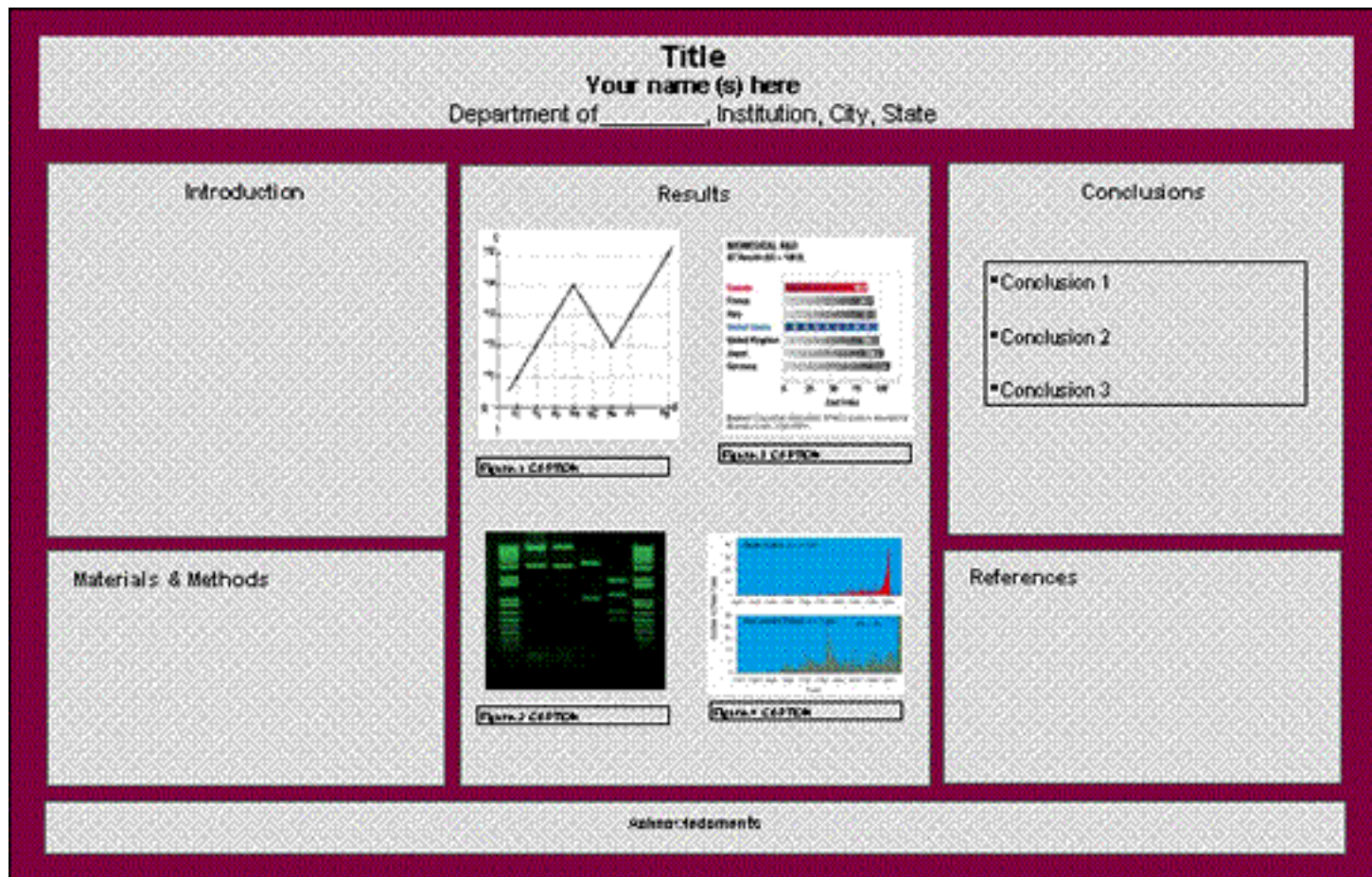
- More important than it seems!
- You do not stare at a whole paper at once, but you do so for a poster. Thus, your audiences' eyes are free to wander about as they please
- Layouts must guide your eyes from one succinct compartment to the next in the order you intended it.

Poster Layouts



<http://ppop.stanford.edu/posters.html>

Poster Layouts

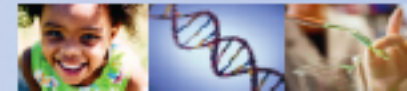


<http://ppop.stanford.edu/posters.html>

Poster Sections

Heading

- Includes title, list of authors & affiliations, logos of associated institutions:
- Title: can be the most important part of your poster!
 - Often times only the title is printed in conference booklets
- Authors: This should be more than just you!!! At minimum it includes the supervisor but also every person that has contributed to any of the poster's contents
- Logos: As with all other things, ensure they are of sufficient resolution.



Functional Interactions of RNA Pol II Phosphatase Fcp1 with Chromatin Remodeling Factors and Mediator Subunits

Maria J. Artizabal, Viola Ng, and Michael S. Kobor

Centre for Molecular Medicine and Therapeutics, Child & Family Research Institute, Department of Medical Genetics, Children's and Women's Hospital, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

Introduction/Background

- Provides succinct information to convey why your project is of any importance
- This is not your abstract!!!
- If possible, include graphics
 - E.g. relevant previous data your project is based on
 - Picture of gene/transcript/protein you are studying with relevant epitopes/regions that you used in your methods
 - Within reason, images of disease pathology
 - Epidemiological graphs

Objective/Hypothesis

- It is acceptable to only have one of these
- Usually 1-2 sentences
- What is the specific question your research is trying to answer?
- What gap of knowledge (as described in your intro) is your project addressing?
- Everything else in your poster should relate back to your hypothesis

Materials and Methods

- DO NOT explain common methods (e.g. PCR, western blots)
 - Instead just fill in the details (e.g. primer selection & gene target for PCR, source of protein and probing Ab's for westerns)
- Visuals or charts to illustrate your workflow with point-form text to add details
- Ensure the relevance of your methods is outlined (i.e. if you used a certain knockout, inhibitor, gene construct... why?)

Results (1)

- DO NOT squeeze in everything you did this summer (i.e. trouble-shooting, quality-control experiments)
- Only results that help address your hypothesis should be presented
- Figure legends: figures can be self-explanatory, but ensure your legends can explain your figure without you there
- You can include negative data or unexpected results

Results (2)

- Sub-divide results into sections that deal with a common question
 - Each section should clearly state the main finding it illustrates
- Present these sections in the order that makes the most sense, not necessarily chronological

Conclusion & Future Directions

- You can begin by re-stating your question
- Briefly outline the main findings of your work. You can boast a bit if they are a very novel/interesting addition to your field
- Based on these findings, what is the answer to your question?
- Future directions: If your question was not completely answered, what experiments will help fill in the blanks?
- If it was... (really?) then what is your next question of interest (and how can you answer it)?

Acknowledgements

- These include collaborators that are not authors on the paper (e.g. people that have provided you with clinical samples, strains, etc...)
- Your funding sources, including your studentships but also grants that fund your research

References

- These can be small
- Refs can be a useful tool – but don't go too crazy. If you are citing 50 papers you have gone too far.
- You can provide refs to support condensed points that you do not want to elaborate on in your text body
- These can include more info on your methods

More General Things (1)

- Consider your audience when making your poster. For you guys, this is your peers!
- You will get far more impact and interest if your audience can easily understand your work (i.e. if it seems over-simplified to you, it's probably great for a non-expert audience)
 - Aim to entertain rather than bewilder or impress
- Added references (or you, in person, answering questions) can add layers of complexity
- A poster is not a manuscript! It can speak to your personality. You can even throw on a picture of your beautiful self 😊

More tips: PMID 1750921

More General Things (2)

- Watch your language!

A poor example:

“We use logistic regression and a discrete-time hazards specification to assess relative hazards of SCHIP disenrollment, with plan level as our key independent variable.”

A better way to put it:

“Chances of disenrollment from the State Children’s Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) vary by amount of time enrolled, so we used hazards models (also known as event history analysis or survival analysis) to correct for those differences when estimating disenrollment patterns for SCHIP plans for different income levels”

PMCID: PMC1955747

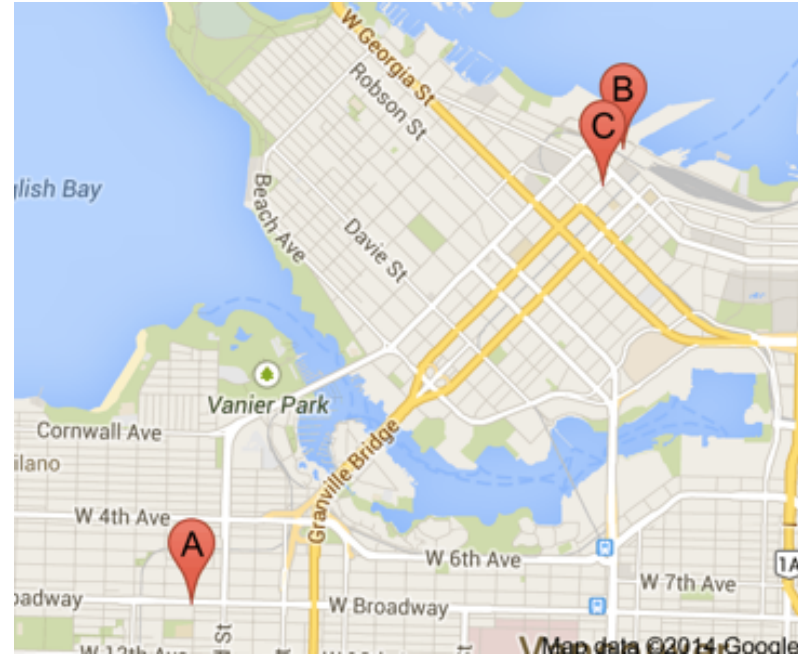
Making your poster

- Check the maximum size requirements before you start!!!
- I use powerpoint. Others have used Illustrator.
- Check spelling, check it again, and then check it another time. Then ask others to do the same.

Printing

FedEx Kinko's:

- Paper posters
- About \$60
- Allow 1-2 days



- A. 1900 W Broadway: 604-734-2679
- B. 900 Canada Place: 604-682-2996
- C. 779 West Pender: 604-685-3338

Printing

WMW Reprographics LTD:

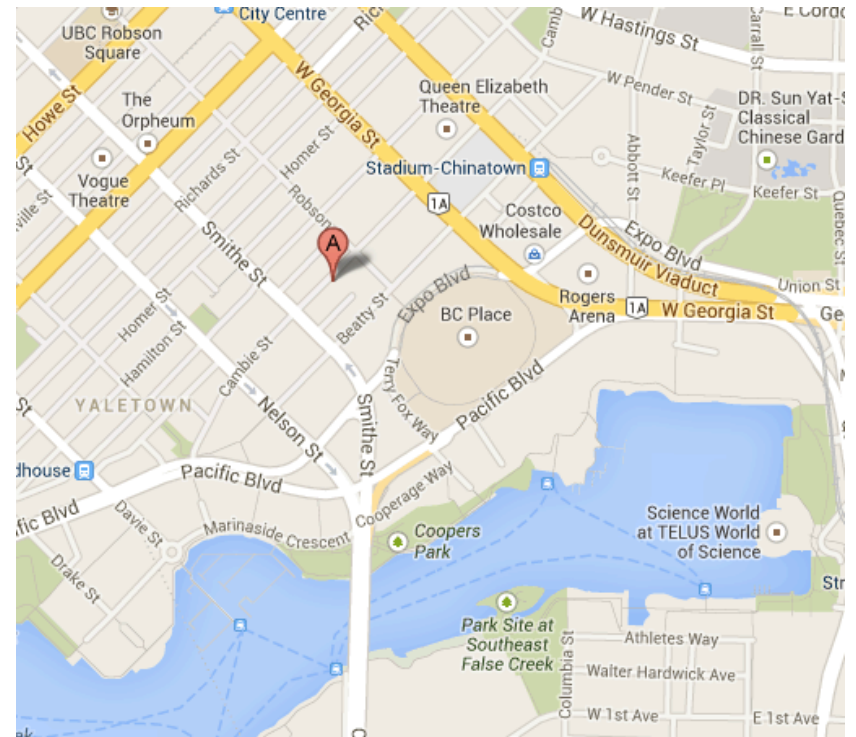
www.wmw.ca

604-685-5408

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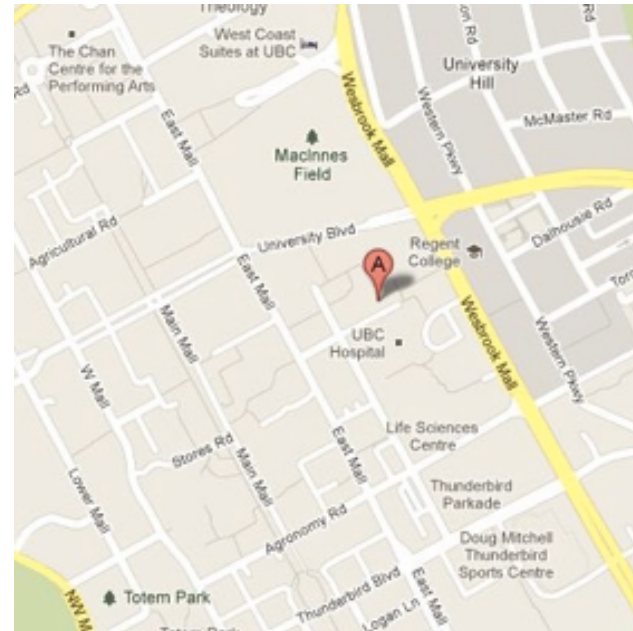
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~\$60 paper posters

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Allow 1-2 days

(same day *sometimes*
possible with extra cost)



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