

APHL Newborn Screening Symposium Poster Development and Submission Frequently Asked Questions

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Poster Options and Specifications

1. What are the format options for poster presentations at the 2026 APHL Newborn Screening Symposium?

New in 2026, APHL is offering two options for poster presenters. Regardless of poster format, all posters will be included digitally in the symposium app and website, and all poster presenters are expected to present in person. Poster presenters must be registered for the symposium. Registration and travel expenses will be the responsibility of each presenter.

- The first option is the standard printed poster. Printed posters will hang on a poster board in the Exhibit Hall. Each poster will be put up in the Exhibit Hall for four days, from **Sunday, October 11 at 5:00 pm – Wednesday, October 14 at 4:00 pm**. Presenters will need to put their poster up on the appropriate board by 4:30 pm on October 11 and then take it down right after the Exhibit Hall closes at 4:00 pm on October 14. If posters are not taken down by this day and time, they may be discarded. The poster boards will be numbered and will correspond to the number assigned to the presenter's poster. Posters can be **no larger than 4' tall x 8' wide**, as this is the size of the poster board. We recommend 72"w x 44"h for the best use of the space, but other sizes under that size will be acceptable. Push pins will be provided. Printed poster presenters will be given a specific time to stand by their poster to answer questions. However, presenters can be by their poster at any time. Printed poster presenters are also expected to upload a pdf of their poster to the Cadmium Poster Harvester, which attendees can view on the app, website, and on the digital screens.
- The second option is to present a digital poster on a screen at the symposium, instead of the traditional printed poster. Digital posters will be accessible via the digital screens in the Exhibit Hall. Screens are not touch screens and will only display the static image of your poster. Digital posters should use a **16:9 ratio PowerPoint slide** as the base, which should then be converted to a pdf. Digital poster presenters will be provided with a 10-minute time slot in which they will pull up their posters on the digital screens and present their poster and/or answer questions from attendees.

2. What are the specifications for submitting a digital poster?

Digital posters will be displayed on site on a 55" screen. Utilizing the Cadmium Poster Harvester system, poster presenters should submit a landscape-oriented (16:9) PDF poster image in a minimum 300 dpi resolution. Instructions for submitting your poster to Cadmium will be sent in a separate email.

3. What is the maximum size for a printed poster being displayed?

Printed posters can be **no larger than 4' tall x 8' wide**, as this is the size of the poster board. We recommend 72"w x 44"h for the best use of the space, but other sizes under that size will be acceptable. An *optional* template has been sent for use by printed poster presenters.

4. How do the scheduled poster presentations work?

If you are a digital poster presenter, you will be given a 10-minute slot during one of the Digital Poster Sessions in which you will stand next to a designated screen and pull up your poster in the Exhibit Hall. The screens are not touch screens and will only display the static image of your poster. You can present your poster or answer questions from attendees.

If you are a printed poster presenter, you will be given a specific date and time to stand by your poster board to present your poster and answer questions from attendees. However, presenters can be by their poster at any time.

5. What is the Cadmium Poster Harvester?

The Cadmium Poster Harvester allows presenters to upload a pdf version of their poster to be viewable on the app, website, and digital screens. Presenters will also be able to add a photo, short bio and an optional audio recording. An email with instructions for completing these tasks will be sent to all poster presenters.

6. If I have a printed poster, do I need to upload a pdf to the Cadmium Poster Harvester?

Yes, all printed posters should also be submitted as a pdf so they can be available for viewing on the app, website and on the digital screens. You can also submit an optional audio recording.

Rapid Poster Session

7. What is the Rapid Posters Session?

The purpose of the Rapid Posters Session is to increase the visibility and promotion of posters during the Symposium. The 30-minute session allows selected poster authors to share a 60-second preview of their poster using a single PowerPoint slide (template will be provided). The Rapid Poster session is held in the designated general session ballroom on **Monday, October 12 from 10:00 - 10:30 am**.

Newborn Screening Poster Awards

8. Are posters eligible for an award?

Each year, three posters are selected to receive first, second, and third place at the APHL Newborn Screening Awards Ceremony on **Wednesday, October 14 from 4:00 – 5:00 pm**. This year, we are asking all poster presenters who are interested in the Poster Awards to submit their poster to our awards platform for judging. More information and directions for submitting your poster will be sent via email.

9. Can I submit my poster for judging and not attend the Symposium?

Posters not displayed at Symposium (whether printed or digital) will not be eligible for a poster award. If someone is presenting your poster for you, your poster can be submitted for judging, and the designated presenter can accept the certificate on your behalf.

10. When are posters due to be submitted for judging?

Poster presenters will upload their poster to the awards nomination platform in September. After the judging concludes, the winners will be made aware before the Awards Ceremony. First, second, and third place winners are expected to attend the Awards Ceremony so they can receive a certificate.

11. How are posters being judged?

Each poster, whether a printed poster or a digital poster, is reviewed and rated using the following criteria. Note: You are not required to follow these criteria; it is what the judges will use when reviewing a poster.

- **Content:** The content effectively communicates research objectives, methods, results, significance, and conclusions.
- **Abstract:** The abstract is a summary of the entire poster. It should stand alone so that a person can read the abstract and understand all the research described in the poster.
- **Introduction:** The introduction is used to present the topic and provides all the necessary information needed to understand the topic or issue. It describes the importance of the research, especially in context of previous work that has been conducted in this area.
- **Methods:** The methods section contains all the information needed to understand how data was collected, which instrument or equipment was used to collect data, what method or technique was used to conduct the research, when the work was conducted, who conducted the research, where the research was conducted, what material (e.g., chemical compound, organism, molecule, mineral) was used in the experiments and how or where the material was obtained.
- **Results:** The results section should contain data, typically in the form of a graph, histogram, chart, image, color-coded map or table.

- **Significance:** Scientific posters summarize information or research concisely and attractively to help publicize it and generate discussion. The significance of the study is a written statement that explains why your research was needed. It's a justification of the importance of your work and the impact it has on your field. It should contribute new insights or approaches, demonstrating its value to the public health community.
- **Clarity:** An effective poster communicates its main points quickly and unmistakably. It ensures viewers grasp the essence without confusion. Start by assessing how clearly the poster communicates its message. Objectives, methods, results, and conclusions should be easily understandable, with no ambiguity. Ensure that an acronym is defined the first time it is used and refrain from using 'scientific jargon.'
- **Organization:** A well-structured poster leads the audience through its sections logically, enhancing comprehension and retention. Each segment flows seamlessly into the next. Look at the poster's layout and structure. Information should flow logically, guiding the viewer through the story from introduction to conclusion.
- **Visual Appeal:** Attractive design and thoughtful layout grab attention and guides the viewer's journey through the content. This balance between aesthetics and information is crucial. Visual elements should enhance the poster's message, not detract from it. Effective use of color, graphics and space can attract attention and aid comprehension.
- **Relevance:** Tailoring the content to fit the interests and knowledge level of the audience maximizes impact. It speaks directly to their curiosity and needs. The ability of the poster to provoke thought and invite questions marks its success. It should contribute new insights or approaches, demonstrating its value to the public health community. Relevance ensures the work addresses current challenges or gaps in knowledge.
- **Overall presentation:** Finally, consider how the figures, tables and images support the communication of the information.

12. What awards are given for posters?

The three highest rated posters in each poster category receive a certificate of achievement.

Poster Guidance

13. Can you provide some guidance on creating a poster?

Yes! Please see below. Note: this is just *guidance*. You are not required to follow it.

Content

- The content of the poster is focused on one specific topic or project. The poster should be able to tell the story of the project without the poster author being present.

- The content should showcase the topic and the work performed to achieve the results and conclusions of the project.
- If the poster author is present, they should be able to explain the poster content in less than 10 minutes.

Format

- The format of the poster is organized and easy to read. This applies to both a digital poster and a printed poster.
 - A digital poster should have a font size that is large enough to read on the screen and limited to one slide only. Your body text should be a minimum of 24 pt, with larger fonts used for headings and titles to ensure readability from a distance of several feet. The digital poster upload must be a pdf at the highest resolution possible. The aspect ratio (ratio of width to height) is 16:9.
 - The printed poster can be a maximum 4' tall x 8' wide, as this is the size of the poster board. We recommend 72"w x 44"h for the best use of the space, but other sizes under that size will be acceptable. A printed poster should have a font size that is large enough to read from six feet, typically 30-40 pt for body text, 44-80 pt for headings, and 80-120 pt for the main title, ensuring your smallest text (captions/citations) is at least 24 pt; prioritize sans-serif fonts like Arial for headings and serif like Times New Roman for body text, limiting to 1-2 font families for clarity.

Design

- The design of the poster is inviting and attractive to draw someone walking by the poster to want to stop and read the poster. The design may elements include:
 - Organized, clean and simple layout.
 - Contains minimal text, with figures and tables being the focus.
 - Up to ten high-resolution figures and/or tables in easily readable font.

Structure

- The poster should be able to briefly provide the following elements. Think about how each element fits within the overall poster design specifications.
 - Title
 - Author(s)
 - Abstract
 - Introduction
 - Materials & Methods
 - Results
 - Discussion
 - References and Acknowledgements
- A suggested approach is to provide additional information for each section using a QR code or a URL that links to a one-page document that provides the details for each section.