Research Minute
10 Tips for Research Posters

1. **Basics.** A research poster is a very very large powerpoint slide. You can add text, figures, graphs just as you would in a powerpoint presentation. UTHSA has poster templates online (you are not limited to these, however). http://ims.uthscsa.edu/services_solutions/print_posters.aspx

2. **What goes where?** The illustration below shows an outline of the information that should be included in each section.

3. **Font size.** The poster must be read from 6 feet away or more. Good rule of thumb is to print your poster on an 8.5 x 11 page. Is it legible? If yes, it will be OK.

4. **Show more than tell.** When possible, use graphs, charts, photos or illustrations to tell your story. Poster visitors will not spend much time reading.

5. **Color!** Use graphs to illustrate your findings. Use photographs to add interest. Use color on subheadings and borders. You want to draw an audience toward you. However, keep the background white or light.

6. **Consistency.** Use consistent font types and font sizes across the various sections. Use consistent color combinations from graph to graph.

7. **Handouts**. A great handout for poster visitors is a printed copy of your poster. If you have additional information to share (an extra table, or a tool you used) print it on the back. Include your contact information for future discussions.

8. **Size.** Conference planners will tell you that they have 4' x 8' poster-boards—*but they are never that large!* Burge's favorite size is 48' x 36'. It curls into a 36" tube that fits in overhead storage on an airplane. Some print shops have fabric posters that allow you to fold and carry them in your luggage.

9. **Finishes.** Keep it simple. Lamination and fancy finishes are unnecessary.

10. **Cost.** UTHSA Print Shop will print 48 x 36 posters for under $40. Give them one week notice.

Title of the Project
Author
Institution

BACKGROUND
- What do we know about this topic already? What does the research literature say?
- What is not known? Or, What is the problem you want to solve, or gap you want to fill?

OBJECTIVES
- The purpose of this project is to…
  - Aim 1
  - Aim 2
  - Aim 3

METHODS
Participants.
- Who was included in the study? Who was excluded? Do you have a control group?
Intervention (if you have one).
- Describe what you did.
Measurement.
- What are the key concepts in your study?
- How did you assess them? (lab values? surveys? Other Measurement tools?)
Procedure
- How were data collected? Who, when, where?
Analysis
- What statistics were used for each study aim?

RESULTS
- Characteristics of your sample.
- Graphs, tables, lists, qualitative information is all appropriate here.
- Results should link directly back to your Objective and study aims.

CONCLUSIONS
- State your most exciting finding.
- Describe
  - lessons learned, or
  - recommendations, or
  - future plans

REFERENCES
1. Tiny font is OK here.
2. Cite the research from your Background Section

Grant funding? Remember to acknowledge the source