Poster sessions are designed to allow a researcher to discuss his or her research with interested persons for an extended period. Poster sessions also allow attendees to select the papers they are most interested in and concentrate on them. The distinguishing features of the poster presentations have been warmly received by both attendees and presenters for this reason.

A successful poster requires care and planning. An extra hour or three spent preparing your materials and organizing your display will contribute heavily towards making a success of the session.

Setting and Materials
Each poster will be presented along with other posters dealing with similar problems or issues. All posters will be presented in the Exhibit Hall. Each poster will be allocated a poster board, measuring approximately 8 feet x 4 feet (width x height), which is approximately 3 feet off the ground. It is on this board that the poster materials should be displayed. Tags identifying you and your co-authors as poster presenters will be issued to you at the beginning of the session.

Pushpins for mounting your poster materials will be provided; if your poster requires any special materials that cannot be mounted via pushpins, you should bring your own mounting supplies. No electrical outlets or audio-visual equipment will be provided in the poster area even if you requested it in your submission. You must be prepared to deliver your presentation based solely on the materials that can be directly affixed to the poster board.

Setting Up and Tearing Down
Only 15 minutes are scheduled between each poster session. This tight turnaround helps provide the strongest usage of the overall time available at the Convention. Also, please be courteous to the poster presenters using your board in the following session by curtailing conversation and taking down your materials at the end of your session. Poster presenters should arrive at the poster display area 15 minutes before the scheduled beginning of their poster session to set up their display materials. At the end of the session, display materials and all other materials must be taken down and removed from the areas. Each poster board will carry a number in the upper corner corresponding to the poster's listed number found in the program book.

Display Materials
It is critically important that your display materials be both clear and visible. Most people will be viewing your poster from a distance. It should be easy to identify the poster and the presenter(s) by including a complete heading on the poster.

Some attendees determine the specific posters they want to see by using the online Itinerary Planner or the Convention program book. Others will wander to a poster session section based on the topics listed. In either case, having a clear heading will attract interested people. Your paper may well be of considerable interest to them (and their comments to you). Clear title/presenter headings will greatly increase the likelihood that such contacts will be made.

As a general rule, it is recommended that the title be in 1-inch print or larger. Headings of 3/4-inch or 1 inch can easily be done with press-on or computer generated lettering. The authors and the affiliations can probably be done in 1/2-inch or 3/4-inch size. It is not a good idea to include any display materials done in regular size type. Instead, you may wish to include an abstract typed in a large, clear type and several large, clearly labeled graphs and other visual aids.

Figures that take up a full 8 1/2” by 11” page are probably adequately large, but even larger materials would be desirable. If tables are included, they should probably be larger than an 8 1/2” by 11” sheet. Pictures, diagrams, and other materials of adequate size are often helpful. (See section below on Poster Content.)

A useful rule here is that your material should be easily read from a distance of 4 to 6 feet. As mentioned earlier, the poster’s overall appearance is a critical factor affecting its success. For this reason, the poster should be as neat and visually pleasing as possible. Hand lettering of materials is generally not satisfactory. The creative use of colors in lettering background and figures can add considerably to poster appeal.

You must be able to quickly assemble and tear down your poster materials. One successful method has been to premount the material on several large boards, which can be quickly mounted on the display board. Another innovative method would be to buy or cover a folding fabric cutting board and then permanently attach the display materials to it. Examples of good poster board presentation style are shown below. Two general styles are shown: the placement of materials on several large boards; and the use of smaller boards, which are then arranged on site.

No matter which method you use, you should take care that parts of the display are not damaged or misplaced in transit. Before leaving for the convention, check your materials to see if they are too bulky or awkward to be easily carried; if so, it is wise to secure a better carrying case or to revise your layout to reduce the chances of damaging your materials (see the example below).

All materials you wish to display should be related to your presentation and the materials described in the abstract you submitted to the Convention Program Committee. A poster session is not an appropriate place to identify items that are for sale (such as special equipment or programming materials). If you wish to advertise materials that can be purchased, please email the ABCT office in New York regarding the rental of exhibit space at the convention or advertising possibilities.

Poster Content
Giving a poster is not just a matter of preparing visually attractive materials. The basic rule is this: provide a short, clear, nontechnical description of what you did, why you did it, and what you found. Generally, you should not highlight such things as subjects, apparatus, or details
The poster should communicate the issue and conclusion. The actual in vivo discussion should fill in the details.