



# Rural Health Association of Tennessee

## Student, Resident and Faculty Virtual Poster Competition Information

This virtual research poster competition is a low-cost way for students, residents and faculty to share their research without the costs of producing a “hard-copy” poster. Researchers will receive a citation for their abstract for participating in this competition. Winners will receive prizes.

Division winners will receive

### **Evaluation and Judging**

Submissions to the Virtual Poster Competition will be evaluated in two areas:

- Scientific Content (75%)
  - Introduction & background with pertinent literature cited (15 points)
  - Objectives clearly stated & concise (15 points)
  - Materials & methods (study design) clear & concise (15 points)
  - Results & discussion clear, concise & accurate (15 points)
  - Significance of results to field of study (15 points)
- Virtual Poster Display (25%)
  - Organization
    - Logical order, minimum redundancy (5 points)
    - Effective use of space; smooth transitions (5 points)
  - Text, Figures, and Tables
    - Legible with large fonts, color contrast, no conflicting backgrounds (5 points)
    - Text with no grammatical errors; not excessively wordy (5 points)
    - Effective use of figures and/or tables, coordinated with text (5 points)

Numerical scores are proportioned accordingly. Each poster display is judged independently by three judges.

In the event of a tie, the Competition Co-Chairs will use the submitted abstract as a tie-breaker. Abstracts will be judged according to how informative and well written it is and how well it correlates with the presentation.

A sample [Virtual Poster Competition Scorecard](#) is available for reference.

## Divisions

The following four divisions will be judged separately from one another:

1. Undergraduate and Masters' Students
2. Doctoral and Professional Students (MD, DO, PA, NP, DMS, PhD, etc.)
3. Postdoctoral Trainees (Medical Residents, Fellows, etc.)
4. Faculty

## Suggestions for Posters

Each poster must be contained within the size of the [Sample Virtual Poster template](#) provided.

Poster design can significantly enhance or severely diminish the effectiveness of your presentation. The following guidelines are general considerations:

- Focus of attention: The focus of attention must be on the subject content. If the design overshadows the subject matter, the message is likely to be lost.
- Size and selection of visuals: Larger visuals attract more attention. Visuals not relevant to the content will distract the viewer.
- Density of visuals and text (labels): Too many visuals (pictures) and text (labels) in a small space decreases readers' attention, because each object is in competition with the others. Minimize these to prevent stimulus overload! Generally, a maximum length of 50-75 words per label results in a higher probability of people reading it.
- Ability to read text: Letters should be large so that they can easily be read from 2-3 feet away. Letters should be easily read (avoid Old English and other "fancy" fonts).
- Poster layout:
  - Use a consistent layout with heading and subheading font and size standardized;
  - Use bulleted lists to facilitate reading;
  - Relate the content of the text to the picture it describes;
  - Reduce competing stimuli—Avoid placing a large number of labels and visuals next to one another; and
  - Provide good contrast between the text and background (avoid white on white, blue on navy, etc.).

Application: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LWGPYBQ>

**SAVE THE DATE**  
ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
NOVEMBER 14-16, 2018  
PIGEON FORGE, TN

**RURAL  
HEALTH**  
ASSOCIATION OF TENNESSEE