

4 TESLA



Spin Down Under



What is a convention? Samples from www.thefreedictionary.com:

1. *A formal meeting of members, representatives, or delegates, as of a political party, fraternal society, profession, or industry.*
3. *General agreement on or acceptance of certain practices or attitudes.*

Ironically, our convention in Australia next spring will be somewhat unconventional. Because Australia is a somewhat unconventional kind of place. Where we will be having our convention. To make sense of this paradox, I will illustrate my blog with some of the unconventional pictures I took whilst in Australia.

The topic for today is the poster sessions. The session right after lunch. A bedrock of the meeting, it is where several thousand first authors and their colleagues display the results of their efforts from the previous year. Something no sane chair would tamper with.

I've been thinking a lot about how to kick the poster sessions up a notch. In truth, many of you have commented to me that the poster sessions lack the vitality that they once had. The e-posters in particular are not well attended - with some exceptions. We are going to try something new to enhance the e-posters, as well as, to a smaller degree, the traditional posters. As a reminder - right now, we have three 2-hour slots each day after the plenaries; the morning oral slot (slot 1), the poster slot after lunch (slot 2), and the late afternoon oral slot (slot 3).



You're doing WHAT to the poster session?!?

In Melbourne we are going to have poster presentations in all 3 slots, grouped by category, or theme. So all three slots, every day, will have 1 traditional poster session, 1 electronic poster session, 5-6 oral talks (down from 8-9 per session), and 2-3 educational slots. There will also be another session, which I will talk about in my next blog. So with this new, distributed poster session, the week might look something like this (just an example! not the real thing):

Day	Slot	Eposter	Tposter	Read SDU 5T to find out about this mystery session!	Oral	Oral	Oral	Oral	Oral	Oral	Oral	Oral	
Mon	1	CV	Body		Neuro	Cancer	Spect	Psd	Difperf	Fmri	Education	Education	Education
	2	Neuro A	Fmri		CV	Mol	Psd	Eng	Msk	Education	Education	Education	Education
	3	Cancer	Mol & spect		Neuro	CV	Body	Eng	Difperf	Psd	Education	Education	Education
Tues	1	Body	Msk		Neuro	Cancer	Mol	Psd	CV	Psd	Education	Education	Education
	2	Psd A	CV		Neuro	Body	Difperf	Fmri	Spec	Neuro	Education	Education	Education
	3	Eng	Psd		Neuro	Body	Fmri	Neuro	Cancer	Education	Education	Education	Education
Wed	1	Msk & interventional	Cancer		Interv	Difperf	Psd	Eng	CV	Neuro	Education	Education	Education
	2	Diff perf	Neuro		Msk	Mol	Psd	CV	Body	Fmri	Education	Education	Education
	3	Neuro B and psd B	Diff perf		Cancer	Msk	CV	Eng	Body	Education	Education	Education	Education
Thurs	1	Mol & spect	Intervent		Neuro	Difperf	Fmri	Psd	Psd	Eng	Education	Education	Education
	2	Fmri	Eng		Interv	Spect	Difperf	Psd	Neuro	Education	Education	Education	Education
	3				Neuro	Difperf	Psd	Neuro	Body	Education	Education	Education	Education
Fri	1				Neuro	Cancer	Spec	Difperf	Psd	Education	Education	Education	Education

Example of how the Distributed Poster Sessions might be laid out. Look for potential conflicts through the week for your poster and oral sessions. You know, if you want to.



(left) Having a different perspective lets one attempt to change just about anything. (middle) At the Queen Victoria market, the line for the American Doughnut Kitchen stretches all the way back to the less-well-attended organic produce market. On behalf of America - you are welcome, Australia! The lesson from this is to give the people what they want. With sprinkles. (right) The poster session is going to be distributed.

Note the last slot on Thursday will be the time to take down posters, as in years past, meaning we have 11 slots for poster sessions. We will make the e-poster and traditional poster categories be related (if possible), but not the same, for each slot. Because we will now have

13 slots over which to distribute the oral sessions, rather than 9 as in previous years, I believe we can reduce the amount of content overlap (not eliminate, but reduce). Oral sessions from a particular category (e.g. cancer) will be kept from overlapping with the traditional and e-poster sessions on that same category. I know that we'll have to prove this works with an actual meeting, and I'll try hard to make it happen. You'll see more how this is done in a future blog on how the AMPC construction meeting works.

Because e-posters will be spread out among 11 slots instead of 4, presenters will each have an hour to present their work, rather than 30 minutes.

Presentation Times. The program-at-a-glance, which typically gave the names of oral sessions but generically said "Poster Session" after lunch, will now look like what you see above. Want to know when someone is giving their fMRI e-poster? Well, it will be Thursday after lunch, according to the program above. In fact, ALL fMRI e-posters will be presented then, so it'll be a great time to go - if that's your thing.

E-pods. To complement the distributed E-posters, presentation computers for the E-posters will be grouped into 4 "pods" in the exhibit hall. These "information Pods", or "iPods" for short, will have 24 presentation computers (2 per table, these are like we've always had), a browsing computer with a large monitor, and a whiteboard where you can write obscure medical terms and arcane scientific formulas. Since a 25-CPU iPod with an 8-foot writing surface has probably already been patented, we'll call these E-pods instead of iPods. An example is given below.

EXAMPLE POD

Browsing Computer → [Red Box]

Whiteboard ← [Blue Vertical Line]

Presentation Computer Tables → [Green Boxes]

	Slot	Theme	Hour	Pod A	Pod B	Pod C	Pod D
Monday	9-11	Body & Interventional	1 2	7T whole-body	other Education		HIFU RF Ablation
	1:30 - 3:30	Cancer	1 2	Breast Prostate	Animal Models Methods	Other	
	4:30 - 6:30	Neuro A	1 2	Animal Models Animal Models	spine nerve roots	brain cancer brain cancer	stroke alzheimers
Tues	9-11	Spectro & Mol/Cell & MSK	1 2	MRS Application Hyperpolarized	7T Animal Models	Other Mol/Cell	elbows and knees shoulders
	1:30 - 3:30	PSD/Recon A	1 2	compressed Sensing compressed Sensing	Parallel Imaging Parallel Imaging	Non-Cartesian Dynamic	Steady State Image Analysis
	4:30 - 6:30	Neuro B	1 2	Psychiatric DBS	Other Other		
Weds	9-11	Diff - Perf	1 2	Diffusion Acq Tractography, Q-ball, Modeling		ASL Animal Models	Other - Diff Other - Perf
	1:30 - 3:30	CV	1 2		Clinical Apps 7T	free-breathing coronaries	Other Other
	4:30 - 6:30	Engineering	1 2	RF Gradients	Magnet Design Safety		Other
Thurs	9-11	fMRI	1 2	resting state resting state	psychiatric methods Other	non-BOLD Other	
	1:30 - 3:30	PSD/Recon B	1 2		PSD Applications PSD Applications	Other Contrast Mechanisms Other	

(left) E-poster presentation tables with 2 computers each will be physically grouped in pods of 24. (right) An example grid of how e-posters might be presented - this grid can be included in the program book, both printed and electronic versions. Don't be concerned with the exact titles - I just made them up on the spot. Each pod contains 24 presentations in a given hour.

Each pod's browsing computer will show the (24) title slides of the E-posters in that pod at that time in a perpetual loop. We'll encourage e-poster presenters to add a compelling figure or two to their title slide. This way you can look at the browsing computer for a few minutes, and decide if there are particular tables you want to go to, or you want to just go to the next pod. On the right side of the figure above, an example layout of how the E-posters might be presented is given. Glancing at this figure - when it eventually contains the correct information - should help one to know which pods to focus on.

I also hope this makes it more desirable to go to the E-poster sessions, because you know you'll be likely to bump into other people with similar interests. Scientifically speaking, at least.



The dangers of changing the Annual Meeting of the International Society for Magnetic Resonance in Medicine cannot be overstated.



(left) Hanging with a local, (middle) putting the work of the conference behind us. (right) This picture is from downtown Melbourne - tell me at the conference if you figure out where. There will be no prize.

To be completely honest with you, I shared this idea with the AMPC at the beginning of the summer, and there was not unanimity of opinion that this was a good idea. There was enough support, however, that I decided to try this, while doing all I can to address the concerns of the committee. We will survey all of the attendees after the meeting, and if you didn't like this new

approach, I'll share the names of those who urged me to do it. If you do like it, I'll share the names of those who said it would fail.

Hooroo,

Jim Pipe,
AMPC Chair, 2012 Melbourne

Epilogue:

I'm pleased to note that, since I started blogging about the ISMRM in Melbourne, they have now been voted *The Most Liveable City in the World!* The precise impact of these blogs on the voting is impossible to quantify - I've been told - but whatever part I played in the decision, I'm just honored to be on the winning team. And Vancouver - I still think you're pretty great, too.