

# 8 TESLA



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## *Spin Down Under*

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Hola!

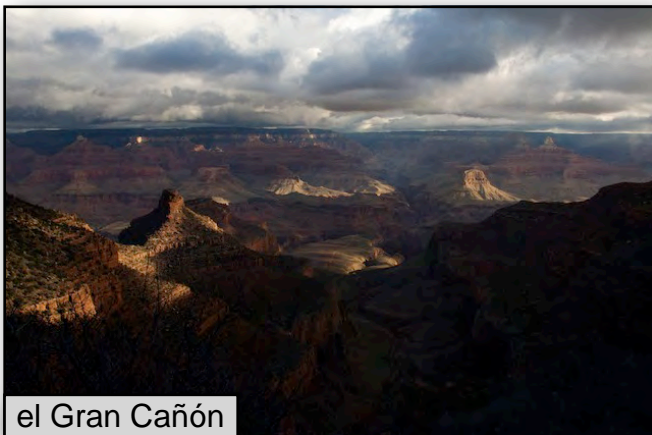
Well, your abstract has been judged. Final sentencing comes January 15, when the AMPC meets in Madrid for our construction meeting. For Madrid, I'm practicing my Spanish. I live 3 hours north of Mexico, and had 3 years of Spanish in high school, pero no recuerdo nada. ¿Como se llama "this abstract is amazing!" ? To help me practice, I'm posting some random personal pix, described... in Spanish!

Regarding the abstract review:

Here's a shout-out to all the reviewers! We had 601 members review up to 66 abstracts, and AMPC members review up to 127 abstracts (DS, I owe you). I was impressed that the questions/complaints we got in this regard were mostly from people who only got a few abstracts to review, wanting to know why they didn't get more. A couple people expressed frustration that they did not get to review any abstracts. For all of you who requested to review and didn't get chosen - first, I truly appreciate your desire to contribute to the society. Second - please don't take it personally. The entire process, as I've learned, is an imperfect attempt by a lot of well-meaning people to do the best they can. We continue to try to make it better.



Abstract Verbiage: Here's some tough love for you all. I got lots of negative feedback from reviewers about how many words some of you fit into your abstract. I need to tell you - most reviewers don't like this, and you don't do yourself any favors when you pack in a lot of words with a small font. This is a great example of the paradox "less is more."



Blind Reviews: We've also discussed how to keep the reviewing process blind. Although author info is removed, many people write (e.g.) "We have previously developed this method... [4]", where [4] gives their names. Or, they acknowledge funding from (e.g.) the "Institute for funding the research of Jim Pipe". (if only...). Anyway, - please consider the need for blind review when you write your abstracts!

What is my chance of getting a talk this year? And by this, I don't mean me - I mean you. Here's a rough breakdown of numbers for Melbourne, which are sujeto a cambios in Madrid. Out of the 5624 abstracts submitted, we plan to have roughly 740 talks, 2008 traditional posters, and 1776 electronic posters. You can do the math.



What's happening now? Each abstract went to reviewers with no author information. After the review, author information, as well as scores, mean score, comments, and percentiles, are automatically added to each abstract. The ISMRM staff then goes through each of the 5624 abstracts individually, making sure (as best they can) that the titles and authors, etc., all fit well on a single page. For example, those of you with particularly long titles receive a reduction in title font size. The abstracts are then printed on differently colored paper, indicating things such as preference for oral vs. poster presentation, to help in the final process.



What happens in Madrid? Here's how the construction meeting plays out in January:

**Friday Evening- SLC Plenaries:** The meeting starts around 7 PM. We start with an orientation for our new members, then we have a brainstorming session for plenaries and named lecturers for Salt Lake City. Hopefully we come up with maybe 8-12 possible plenaries (themes and possible talks) and 10-15 name lecturers. We'll finish around 10 PM.

**Saturday Morning- Melbourne abstracts:** Starting around 8AM, AMPC members representing each scientific category sit at their own table, which are populated proportionally to the number of submitted abstracts for that category - e.g. the neuro table has 10 people, while the interventional table has 2. All of the abstracts for that table are printed out,

divided into the subcategories, and ordered by their mean score. Each table is given a the number of oral sessions they are to organize, the number of traditional posters and e-posters they are to assign, and (by default) the number of abstracts they must reject. For example, this year the Engineering table will take the 362 abstracts submitted to their subcategories, and from these assign 50 oral talks (they will get 5 sessions), 151 traditional posters, and 96 e-posters. Contrary to what many people think, the oral sessions are not strictly determined by the subcategories. The table members generally look through the best abstracts and try to come up with themes from which to create oral sessions. For instance, if Engineering has 4 great abstracts on MR-PET designs, and 3 on 400-channel rf coils, they might make a session called "Increasing the



Obtener direcciones de google desde aquí en el hospital

cost of your scanner”, and then look for the last 3 abstracts that fit that theme. What I want to say here is that their charge is to make the best program possible - it is \*not\* to give talks to the best-scoring abstracts. While abstract scores and oral assignments may be highly correlated, they don't always match. For instance, if you get a great score on an abstract about Flourine-MR of lobsters, it may not fit into any oral session, and therefore be assigned to a poster.

Ah, Larry...

**Saturday Afternoon- SLC Education:** After 5 hours or so, the tables have finished all the abstract assignments, and they reform into eight education tables to come up with education courses for Salt Lake City. Each table now has set number of weekend courses, sunrise courses, and weekday courses that they must fill. They look at attendance figures and comments from the last few meetings, and brainstorm about what courses they should keep, and what new courses they should introduce. This year, for the first time - as you all saw - our education chair for SLC, Derek Jones, has asked for ideas from our membership. As he stated, you are not guaranteed to get a course implemented if you suggest it - but they will be seriously considered. This process goes on until 5-6 PM.

**Saturday Evening:** Well-deserved break.

**Sunday Morning: “Post-it Session” for Melbourne:** This is a pretty interesting part of the meeting. We have several large posterboards set up, printed with a grid showing the 3 slots for each day of the meeting, and all of the available rooms and their capacity. The education courses for Melbourne, the YIA session, as well as Study Group lounge and poster sessions, are all written down on these grids, with blank spots where the oral sessions will go (basically, what you see in the program-at-a-glance). There is also a sheet with post-it notes containing the oral sessions assigned on Saturday for each table. We then have a number of rounds, in which each table chair chooses 1 or 2 post-it notes (i.e. oral sessions) and puts them in a square designating the day, time, and room they want that talk to be in. After each round, the AMPC chair (me) and table chairs will go through the week and look for conflicts, negotiating trades where we can. When all is good, we move to the next round. After 30 minutes or so, we are done, and the fate of Melbourne is sealed.



Quiero que el casco k-espacio



mis perros, mesmerizado por la reunión anual de ISMRM

The meeting in Melbourne - not the actual city.

**Sunday Morning, post-Post-it Session:** We go over the SLC named lecturers and plenary themes from Friday night, coming up with our top candidates for each, along with designated organizers for the plenaries. We then reconvene the education tables as necessary until each table has their required set of SLC

education courses, and each education table chair presents the list to the group, making sure their is no overlap.

**Sunday Afternoon: Strategic Planning:** Here we discuss what is and isn't working about the meeting and the planning process, so that future annual meetings can be better than Melbourne.

Whatever.

**Sunday Evening:** While the rest of the AMPC goes from tapas bar to tapas bar, the AMPC chair (me) sits with the ISMRM staff and groups together the poster sessions that were just created for optimal flow within the poster area.



Roberta wants me to make clear, both to AMPC members as well as you, the dues-paying reader, that tapas bar expenses are not paid for by ISMRM. It's not like we're the SNM, after all.

My next blog will come after the meeting. With pictures of same.

Adios,

Jim Pipe,  
AMPC Chair, 2012 Melbourne

PS: Current score is KARAOKE 3, MERCY 4.