

9 TESLA

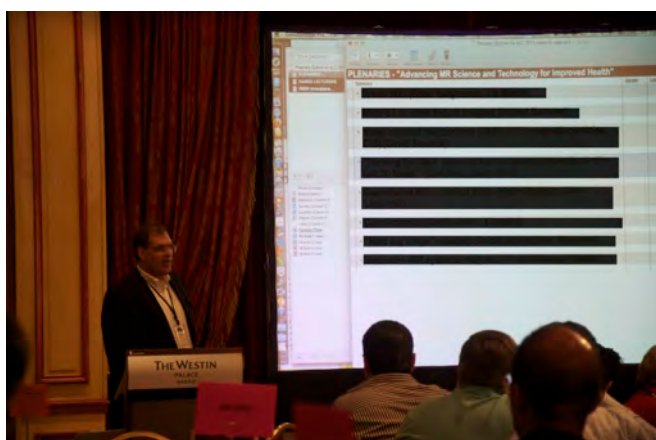


Spin Down Under



I'm back from Madrid, and I have great news!!! You got a talk! I confidently say this because I believe the readers of this blog to be the kind of people who deserve to get talks. If you didn't get one, something went wrong, and you should contact the *other* AMPC chairs, Garry.Gold@SLC_rocks.org or Derek.Jones@the_new_Milanium.com.

As promised, the inside scoop on the Madrid construction meeting, photographically enhanced:



On Friday Evening, Garry Gold led a discussion on plenaries for SLC - I blacked out the actual plenary possibilities, so that Garry can present them at a time and place of his choosing. We came up with perhaps 25 possibilities Friday night, and then, with much discussion and a vote (everyone got 5 votes), narrowed it down to the 8 that you don't see here. The proposers for these plenaries then had until Sunday morning to flesh out their ideas, when subsequent voting reduced this down to our top five choices.

On Saturday afternoon, Derek Jones led a discussion on education for SLC, leading to some fanatastic new ideas. There was a lot of discussion on incorporating new ideas and new technology into the courses. Figuring out how to incorporate different versions of Audience Response Systems, tweeting, all that new-fangled stuff you kids like. Education planning was finished on Sunday morning, with the rough course outlines picked for 2013.

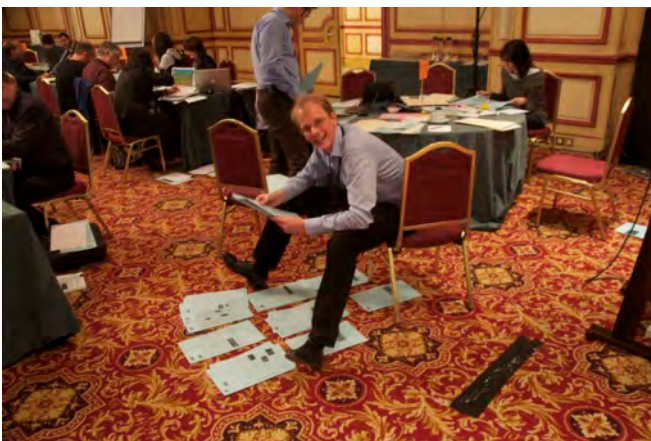




On Saturday morning, everybody sat at the table of their specialty, and after some initial instructions, got down to business. Each table prepared initially in their own way; some, like the Body Table (**above left**), had discussions about the underlying themes among the good abstracts, to come up with great oral sessions. Garry, sitting at the MSK table (**above right**), started by pullin' out the ol' Diet Pepsi. Each blue sheet you see on these tables is somebody's abstract. The pink, yellow, and orange sheets are cover sheets, which get attached to groups of abstracts combined to make an oral or poster session, and list the title, moderators, stuff like that.



The PSD/Recon table (**above left**) wrote common themes between different submission subcategories on a flip-chart to pick their oral sessions. People with abstracts that belong at different tables try to make these exchanges early (**above right**), but have to get buy-in from the giving and receiving tables. Here Thoralf makes the case to hand an abstract from the Cardiovascular table to the Engineering table.



Sometimes the tables aren't big enough for the job. Spreading out abstracts on the ground is common, but you have to keep careful track of each piece of paper. Here, Matthias uses his long limbs to stake out his claim. As a member of the Diffusion/Perfusion table, he's aware of the properties of random motion and active transport, and works to keep the papers in neat piles.

Derek (**right**) going over something with Roberta. I'm not sure what it's about - they don't let me in on their little Salt Lake City and Milan meeting plans. But I thought I heard Derek mention something about free pasta breaks during the Milan meeting. **Below**, Patrick (from Mira), Allison, and Stephanie are hard at work entering every abstract into the system. **Below Right**, Roberta has just calculated the price for free pasta for 6000 people in Milan. I don't think it's going to happen.



Left, we see our central office still hard at work on Saturday at 6PM. In the foreground, stacks of electronic poster sessions are arranged on a table. In the back, our vice-president Tom Grist is talking to Roberta about how fabulously run this meeting has been. Behind them is the center of the next morning's action, the poster boards containing the program-at-a-glance for Melbourne. The boards have the plenary, education, and poster sessions filled in. All that's required now is insertion of the oral sessions.

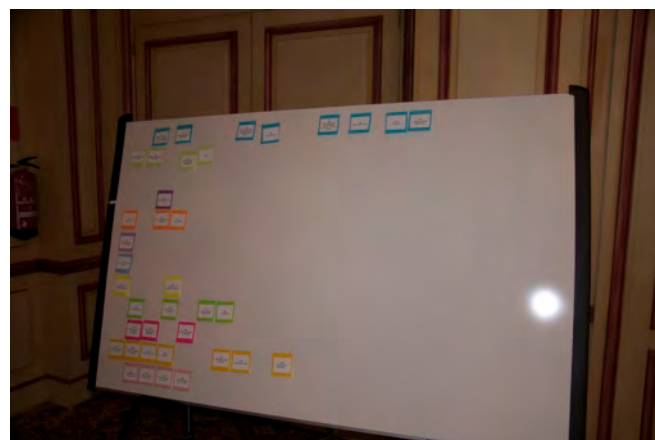


Right, the table chairs get instructions on Sunday morning about creating the oral session. On the far right of the picture, you see a board with little bright colored post-it notes - each one represents an oral session that was created the day before. The very fast blur on the left is Tim Leiner, returning from some obviously important business. Or is that a coffee cup in his hand?

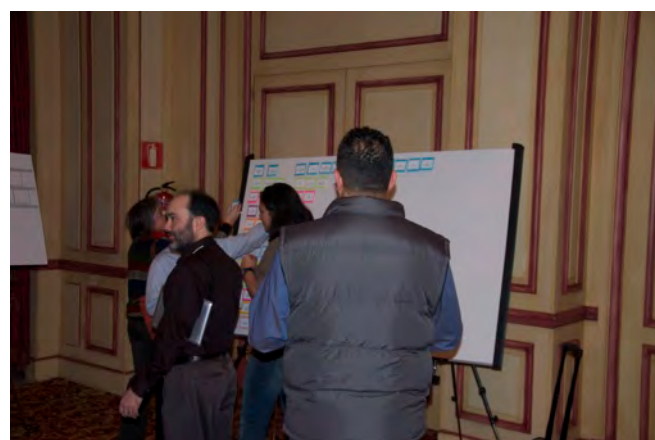
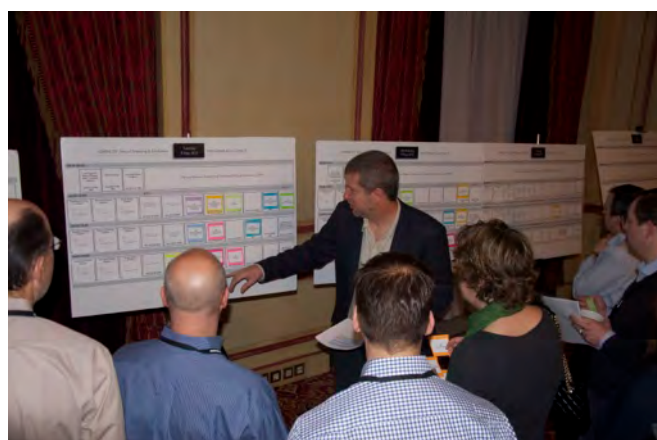


The process involved 7 rounds. In each round, table chairs picked a certain number of talks from the board on the right - determined by the chart below - and placed them on the program-at-a-glance boards. They consider the day, time, room size, and other sessions in that slot. The total number of talks for each table is proportional to the number of submitted abstracts.

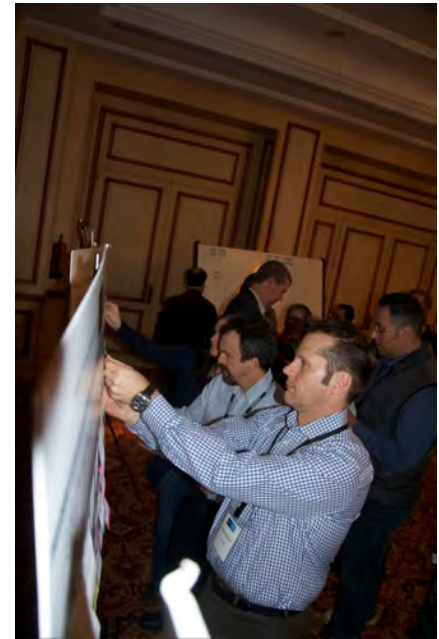
Round	Neuro	CV	Body	MSK	Cancer	Interv	Molec	MRS,	Diff/Perf	fMRI	PSD/	Engin
1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1
2	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0
3	2	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	2	1
4	2	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	1
5	2	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	2	1
6	2	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	2	0
7	2	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	2	1



Above left, after a couple rounds, the board starts filling up. The remaining talks to be placed are shown **above right**.



After each round, the table chairs and I (**above left**) go through the week, making sure that there is no (or minimal) overlap of content between sessions. Some trading happens with everyone's consent. This step takes longer for the final few rounds. **Above right**, Charlie McKenzie ponders his next move.

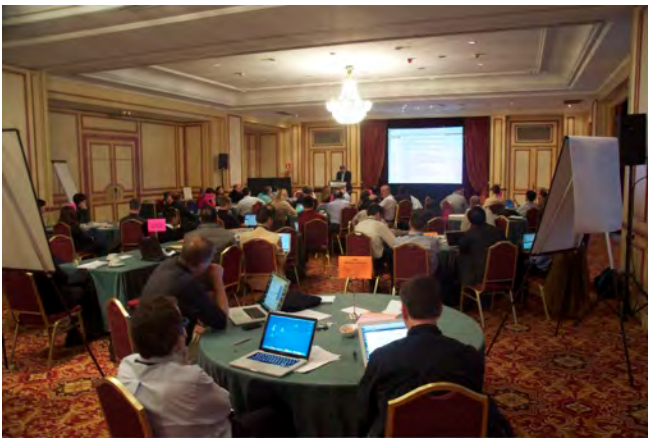


In the next round, (**above left**) most table chairs peacefully place their talks, while (**above middle**) Charlie nimbly jumps in front of Roland Bammer to take the spot of his choice. Well played, Charlie McKenzie. Roland (**above right**) then places his talk in the spot he *really* wanted, chuckling to himself about his well-acted bluff.

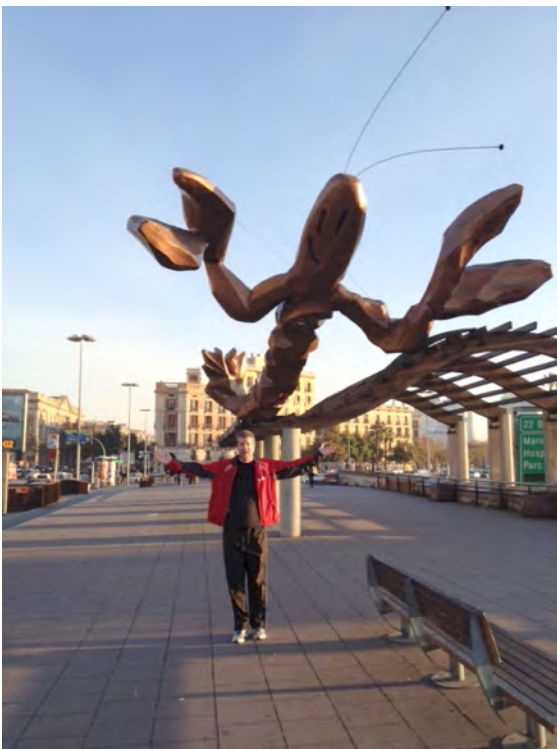


The final rounds get harder, and Joe Ackerman (**above left**) places his last talk in an early morning slot, in the room closest to the casino next door - why is that, Joe? I think the hand (**above right**) is meant to say that 5 days are now done. Robia Pautler (**below left**) scrutinizes the board, and (**below right**) the sessions are final.





On Sunday (**above left**), work goes on for 2013 while (**above right**) Sally starts work on organizing the traditional poster layout for the exhibit hall in Melbourne.



After the meeting, Teri and I went on to see (**left**) the wonders of Barcelona. But that is a tail for another day.

Hooroo,

Jim Pipe,
AMPC Chair, 2012 Melbourne

PS. I believe team MERCY has edged out team KARAOKE. Those of you that want to sing at night in the poster hall will have to do so a capella.