Poster guidelines and advice for the Student-Postdoc Research Conference (SPRC)

1. The poster boards are 48 inches x 48 inches.

2. You must place your poster at your assigned board based on your abstract number. Do not switch spaces.

3. If you want to show animations, bring a laptop. No projectors.

4. Boards will be in place in the ILSB lobby starting at 1:00 the day before the event. Please put up your poster between 1 pm – 4 pm on Friday.

AND NOW THE BIG ONE-

5. You should be able to present your poster to someone in 5 minutes maximum if they don’t have any questions. It’s not your thesis defense; it is a poster. The idea of presenting a scientific poster is to give a large audience a chance to get an idea of what you are doing and give you some quick feedback. If it takes 30-40 minutes, only 1 or 2 people will see your poster, and more importantly, whoever is looking at your poster will not have the opportunity to check out your colleagues. Hit the highlights, and let people ask questions if they want greater detail. Think more conversation than formal presentation.

Many of you may have yours done already because of a meeting you attended. Great. For those that still have some work ahead, a few suggestions:

1. Posters can be made of individual panels or printed as a single poster. Either way works equally well. Assembling your poster from panels will allow you to easily modify it in the future. If you go for the one big poster, the Student Computing Center had the best price last time I looked. The maximum dimensions are slightly different between the SCC and the department’s printer so be sure to check with the right place BEFORE you print. Also, printing takes a little time, so not everyone, in fact no one, should be planning on having a large poster printed at 4:45 pm on Friday.

2. Walk around the buildings and look at posters. You probably find that there are some posters that you are likely to stop and look at and others that you barely slowed down as you passed. Generally speaking, very few people want to read a manuscript while standing. Use just enough text for people to follow.

3. There is (almost) no such thing as too big when it comes to figure and font size.

4. Be professional and neatness counts. It does not change the information or quality of your science, but it does provide that all-important first impression. With more posters than time, you are competing for an audience.

5. How would you rate your poster: Is the background and aim/scientific question clearly presented? Are methods described in sufficient detail to understand what was done? Are results of high quality and accurately and appropriately presented? Are conclusions and/or future directions well thought out? What is the overall impression and effectiveness of poster?