



ACPSEM

Australasian College of Physical Scientists & Engineers in Medicine

ABN 44 005 379 162

ACPSEM Steven Sylvander Research Communication Challenge Information Sheet

BACKGROUND

The ACPSEM Steven Sylvander Research Communication Challenge (SSRCC) is inspired by the Three Minute Thesis (3MT®) concept originally developed by The University of Queensland. The competition challenges those participating to present a compelling oration on their work and its significance in just three minutes in language appropriate to a non-specialist audience using a single PowerPoint slide.

This competition honours the memory of Steven Sylvander, former Director of Medical Physics for Cancer Care Services at the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital (RBWH). Steve was deeply valued within the medical physics community, both in Australia and New Zealand, and many were touched by his generosity, integrity, and encouragement. This prize is established in his honour, and in recognition of the guidance, support, and inspiration he always gave to students and early-career physicists entering the profession.

PURPOSE

The SSRCC, initiated by the Queensland Branch of the ACPSEM, is intended to cultivate the participants academic, presentation, and research communication skills. Presenting in the competition increases a participant's capacity to effectively explain their research in three minutes, in a language appropriate to a non-specialist audience.

CATEGORIES

Participation in the competition is open to ACPSEM members:

- Students currently enrolled in an accredited Masters (Medical Physics) program, Honours students or PhD students whose research area is in the area of Medical Physics/Biomedical Engineering
- TEAP registrars undertaking research towards the conference presentation requirements
- Open category for Industry Professionals in the area of Medical Physics and Biomedical Engineering

RULES:

- A single static PowerPoint slide is permitted (no slide transitions, animations or 'movement' of any description, the slide is to be presented from the beginning of the oration).
 - No additional electronic media (e.g. sound and video files) are permitted.
 - No additional props (e.g. costumes, musical instruments, laboratory equipment) are permitted.
 - Presentations are limited to 3 minutes maximum and competitors exceeding 3 minutes are disqualified.
 - Presentations are to be spoken word (e.g. no poems, raps, dance or songs).
 - Presentations are to commence from the stage.
 - Presentations are considered to have commenced when a presenter starts their presentation through movement or speech.
 - The decision of the adjudicating panel is final.
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JUDGING CRITERIA:**Comprehension and Content**

- Presentation provided clear background and significance to the research question.
- Presentation clearly described the research strategy/design and the results/findings of the research; and
- Presentation clearly described the conclusions, outcomes, and impact of the research.

Engagement and Communication

- The oration was delivered clearly, and the language was appropriate for a non-specialist audience.
- The PowerPoint slide was well-defined and enhanced the presentation; and
- The presenter conveyed enthusiasm for their research and captured and maintained the audience's attention.

PRIZES:

- Winner - \$500 for each category

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

The rules and scoring criteria for the ACPSEM SSRCC have been adapted from the 3 Minute Thesis (3MT®) competition developed by the University of Queensland.

TIPS for PREPARING YOUR PRESENTATION

Write for your audience

One of the judging criteria looks for evidence that you can explain your research to a non-specialist audience. To do this you may like to:

- Avoid jargon and academic language;
- Explain concepts and people important to your research (you may know all about Professor Smith's theories but your audience may not);
- Highlight the outcomes of your research, and the impact it will have;
- Imagine that you are explaining your research to a close friend or fellow student from another field; and
- Do not devalue your research, what you are doing is exciting and you should convey enthusiasm for your subject.

Tell a story

You may like to present your thesis like a story, with a beginning, middle and an end. It's not easy to condense your research into three minutes, so you may find it easier to break your presentation down into smaller sections. Try writing an opener to catch their attention, then highlight your different points, and finally have a summary to restate the importance of your work.

Have a clear outcome in mind

Know what you want your audience to take away from your presentation. Ideally, you would like the audience to leave with an understanding of what you're doing, why it is important and what you hope to achieve.

What not to do

Do not write your presentation like an academic paper. Try to use shorter words, shorter sentences and shorter paragraphs. You can use humour, however be careful not to devalue your presentation.

Revise

Proof your presentation by reading it aloud, to yourself and to an audience of friends and family. This allows you to not only check your style, but it will allow you to receive critical feedback. Ask your audience if your presentation clearly highlights what your research is and why it is important.

PowerPoint Slide

Before you start work on your slide, you should take the following rules into account:

- a single static PowerPoint slide is permitted;
- no slide transitions, animations or 'movement' of any description are permitted; and
- no additional electronic media (e.g. sound and video files) are permitted.

An engaging visual presentation can make or break any oration, so you want your slide to be legible, clear and concise. You may like to consider some of the following suggestions.

Practice, practice, practice

Before you deliver your presentation it is important to practice so you can present with confidence and clarity.

Vocal range

- Speak clearly and use variety in your voice (fast/slow, loud/soft).
- Do not rush – find your rhythm.
- Remember to pause at key points as it gives the audience time to think about what you are saying.

Body language

- Adopt a confident speaking position.
- Engage with your audience (make eye contact).
- Never turn your back to the audience.
- Practise how you will use your hands and ensure your presentation is delivered from a single position.
- Do not make common presentation mistakes, e.g. repetitive movement or playing with your hair as these habits are distracting for the audience.

Dress

- While there is no dress code, if you are unsure of how to dress you may like to dress for a job interview or an important meeting.
 - Do not wear a costume of any kind as this is against the rules (as are any props).
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