

Uhrich: Councilor report for POLY Exec Comm retreat (January 2021)

Spring 2021 Task Force

In late Fall 2020, I joined a joint working group comprising representative from M&E (6 members), DAC (3 members), MPPG (1 member) and PCs (3 members) with the goal to provide direct, quick feedback in shaping the virtual Spring 2021 ACS meeting.

Focus areas have included:

1. Networking: Review and discuss networking opportunities, ideas, and events
2. Virtual platform review: Review a demo of the chosen platform and provide input
3. Communications: Inform how they want to communicate; what can be done, provide feedback on options. How can we facilitate more and better options of communications
 - a. Presenter to attendee
 - b. Attendee to attendee
 - c. Vendor to attendee
4. Virtual platform engagement opportunities: Gamification; social media; virtual 5K event
5. Virtual meeting framework
 - a. Poster sessions; 2nd half of meeting opportunities/events
 - b. How to give visibility to attendees, vendors, networking opportunities
 - c. How you find programming

General feedback

- With the move to a fully virtual meeting, ACS will be engaging a new vendor (such as 360LiveMedia) for the meeting platform. We are still 'interviewing' vendors.
- Timing of the meeting has been moved to April and live programming will occur over 10 business days.
- The pricing has been significantly reduced to be \$99 for members, \$149 non-members and \$29 for students.
- Meeting scheduled in the PT zone as it offers the best opportunity to capture maximum live global participation (as for Fall 2020 meeting)
- 100% virtual throughout the full 30-day schedule with the live technical program component April 5-16 and two weeks on-demand access April 19-30

April 5-16 Live Platform

- Opening Session (relating to meeting theme) on Monday, April 5 (first day of the event) will have our usual 2 ½-hours block
- Total of 120 live concurrent scientific sessions daily, reflecting three 3-hour concurrent sessions (9:00 am-12:00 pm, 1:00-4:00 pm, & 5:00-8:00 pm) each day, (with no 5:00-8:00 pm sessions on the two Fridays, April 9 & 16)
- Live Q&A will follow each session, all room attendees will be visible
- All live sessions will be recorded but presenters will decide if their presentation can be available on-demand
 - Recordings of presentation not available on-demand will be deleted
- Historical number of abstracts and room usage were used to determine session allotments
- Friday 5:00-8:00 pm time slots set aside to ensure time for other events, possibly SciMix

April 19-30 On-Demand Platform

- All live sessions that presenters have given approval to record their session will be recorded as they occur and made available in the on-demand platform
- For SP21 meeting and unlike F20 meeting, moderators will be instructed to introduce each presenter and hold the Q&A immediately after each presentation, which editors will use as the parameters for each start & end times
- For the scheduling, potentially use Saturday, April 10 between the weeks for undergraduate and high school teachers.
- Potentially, on Sunday April 11, schedule cinema/movies, a film festival or other outreach activity with relevance to San Antonio

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Proposed Approach to Poster sessions

- Flash presentation or lightning talk concept, where presenters would have about five minutes to present their poster, engage in one-two minutes of Q&A, & be available in the live platform at their poster for live chat, giving interested attendees the opportunity to conversation in a more focused way
- *Items currently under discussion:*
 - When will/should the poster sessions be included in the meeting?
 - Important to schedule the poster event at a time when it does not compete with all the technical sessions to better the chance of its success (e.g., Evening, weekend?)
 - How can we provide or allow for live poster presentations and ideas for networking & interaction
 - Proposed approach: Flash presentation or lightning talk concept, where presenters would have about five minutes to present their poster, engage in one-two minutes of Q&A, & be available in the live platform at their poster for live chat, giving interested attendees the opportunity to conversation in a more focused way
 - Need to provide opportunities for poster sessions with live interaction capability
 - Need to build in opportunities for networking