IUPUI Research Day offers student research scholars an excellent opportunity to present a wide range of research from initial research ideas, works-in-progress, and to more developed projects. This information describes the research presentation opportunities available to you for this conference. Presenting your research ideas and efforts at this conference will contribute to your professional development in several ways. For example, you will: Obtain helpful insights, ideas, encouragement, and feedback to help shape your research;

- Gain valuable presentation experience early in your career
- Extend your professional network beyond your immediate laboratory or department program
- Expand your résumé or curriculum vita
- Enhance your application for graduate study

If you have not presented research at an academic conference, an on-campus IUPUI symposium is a good place to begin as it provides a collegial and supportive setting. Discuss your presentation(s) with mentors, advisors and/or staff in the IUPUI Center for Research and Learning as you prepare for the symposium. They can provide guidance and feedback or direct you to other resources available to address your questions or concerns.

There are two ways to present at the Research Day event: the Research Roundtable and the Poster Presentation. All students are encouraged to participate in both presentations. However, participation in a Research Roundtable is not required of everyone. Some participants in the conference, especially students that are just beginning their research projects may participate only in a Research Roundtable.

RESEARCH ROUNDTABLE SESSIONS  (UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS ONLY)

Research roundtable sessions give you an opportunity to discuss your research with other scholars in a small collegial and supportive setting. They also broaden your view of research, scholarship and creativity. Roundtables involve small groups of researchers (8-12) making brief presentations and answering questions about their research. Faculty and/or graduate student facilitators moderate presentations and facilitate discussion about the projects and about research in general. The purpose of roundtable sessions is to give you, as student researchers, an opportunity to discuss your research with one another while broadening your view of research, scholarship, and creativity within your discipline. Thus, all roundtable participants are encouraged to join the facilitator in raising thoughtful questions and offering suggestions to colleagues in the roundtable session.
When you submit an abstract to the event and indicate your discipline you will be assigned to a research roundtable, if you indicate you wish to participate. Most of the groups are organized by discipline or related disciplines. Several are interdisciplinary by design (e.g., African American Studies, Environmental Science, and Women’s Studies). A list of the roundtables and locations will be included in your conference registration packet.

**Facilitators & Format:** Each roundtable will have 1-2 faculty and/or graduate student facilitators from a related discipline. Facilitators will allow each student 5-10 minutes to present their project and to answer questions. Facilitators are responsible for making sure each roundtable participant has an opportunity to present, and for keeping the discussion going, including asking questions, offering suggestions, and encouraging other participants to do the same. If time permits, discussion may include other research topics (e.g., strategies, current debates) and careers in academia.

**Presentation:** Each student will:

1) **Present a summary of their research** following an outline similar to that suggested for poster presentations, including:
   a. **Title, purpose or objective** *(what you are researching)*, including a thesis or proposition and major points or premises.
   b. **Rationale or significance** *(why you are researching this topic, issue, problem)* Provide brief background and why the project is important, what it will contribute.
   c. **Methodology** *(how you are researching this topic, issue, problem)* Library research, lab experiments, interviews, etc.
   d. **Status of project** *(at what stage you are in the research project)* Include any problems you have encountered
   e. **Tentative conclusions, if any**
   f. **Mentor’s role in the project**

2) **Distribute a one-page handout** on your research to roundtable colleagues and session facilitator(s). Prepare this handout, based on your research, prior to the conference. Bring 15 copies of the handout to your session. (Yes, this is greater than the anticipated number of participants per roundtable session, but it is always a good idea to bring extras!)

**POSTER SESSIONS**

At a poster session, presenters display a summary of their work (research) or work-in-progress on a large poster board, generally set up in a room or hallway with other poster boards, where conference participants can freely circulate, read poster information, and engage in informal chats with presenters whose work interests them. Poster sessions provide conference participants with an opportunity to access a wide range of projects in a wide range of disciplines in a convenient setting. They also offer an excellent venue for informal one-on-one discussions between presenters and conference attendees.
The process of focusing one’s research in a way that makes the work accessible to a broad audience, whether at the beginning of a project, midway through a project, or at the completion of a project, is an invaluable exercise. It requires the presenter to synthesize all of the information they are learning and crystallize it into small understandable, easily displayed units. These units may include sections on: why we are interested in a subject (statement of the problem); what we already know about the subject (background or literature review); the main ideas we wish to explore (hypotheses); how we plan to explore them (methods); why the research is important (significance); what factors might make it difficult to reach a valid conclusion (limitations of research); and what other areas might be important to explore in the future (future research directions).

Going through the process of making and presenting a poster can help students communicate the importance of their ongoing or proposed research projects during the roundtable sessions in a more organized and efficient manner. The better prepared the presenters are, the more time for discussion and interaction, both critical factors in the development of good research and good researchers.

Poster Content and Preparation: Posters normally feature at least 4 sections addressing the following questions:

- What are you researching?
- Why are you researching this topic?
- How are you researching this topic (methods)?
- What is the status of your research or what have you learned?

Tips on how to address these questions and possible section-headings can be found on page 5. More experienced presenters are invited to consider additional questions.

Some Requirements:
1) Posters must include a title banner.
   a. Include the title of your presentation
   b. Your name and co-authors
   c. Affiliation (home department, school, other affiliated departments, schools and institutions if different than IUPUI, and other affiliations of collaborators not from IUPUI)
   d. Name of your research faculty mentor
   e. The title may be located on your poster or displayed separately above your poster.
2) **Organization and Clarity:** Take time to carefully plan your poster.

   a. The format of a poster requires attention to visual impact. Focus on central points, main ideas. Keep the text brief. Condense your ideas. Information should flow logically from one section to the next. Avoid unnecessary detail. High-contrast, large, clear text with appropriate graphics will draw attendees to your poster.

   b. Use unembellished, legible and heavy fonts such as Helvetica or **Helvetica Bold**. Black type is best, but bold or color can be used to emphasize or highlight key points. Lettering should be legible from 5-6 feet away. Suggested font sizes: Title: 100-144 points Section headings: 72-84 points (Also presenter and mentor names and affiliations) Text: 18-24 points

   c. Use graphs or tables to present numerical data. If a graph or image doesn’t fit on one of the four panels, consider combining the first two questions (what & why) on one panel to free a space for the graphic.

   d. References should be included where other people's work is being represented. This can be included on the poster or can be provided as a handout. Use the citation form appropriate for your field of study.

3) **Space and Materials:**

   a. Boards (3’ x 5’ foam or other presentation surface) on easels will be provided for poster display. If you need a table please contact UROP Program Advisor Carolyn G. Key ([cakey@iupui.edu](mailto:cakey@iupui.edu), Tel: 317-278-0644). Table space is extremely limited and you are advised not to use a table. Each presenter will be limited to one poster. Posters may be mounted on the boards provided using push pins or removable tape. Push pins will be provided. You may not exceed this poster sized but you need not fill the entire 3’ x 5’ space. A portrait orientation (vertical) is recommended.

4) **Printing:**

   a. You may also create elements of your poster as PowerPoint slides that you can then print, cut and paste on your poster board to bring to the session.

   b. A complete poster can be created in one Power Point slide and then printed on glossy poster paper to a large format printer.

   c. All students associated with CRL and CRL-affiliated programs (McNair Scholars, UROP Grants, UROP Fellows, DSRP, LSAMP, MURI-IUPUI, SROP, IUSCCSRP, Bridges to the Doctorate, T32, T35, PFF and AGEP) may use the large format printer in the Center for Research and Learning. However, **YOU**
MUST SUBMIT YOUR FINAL POSTER FILE TO CRL ON OR BEFORE APRIL 3, 2009. No exceptions will be made to this scheduling policy. To submit your final completed poster file and get directions for preparing your poster for printing, contact Cho in the Center for Research and Learning at (317) 278-6002 (tcho@iupui.edu).

d. All other students must work with their mentors/school/department to produce their posters or seek printing services on their own.

Tips: Consider providing a handout about your presentation for interested conference participants to take with them. Be sure to include your contact information. Cardboard shipping tubes are a convenient way to carry and protect your poster. Before purchasing one, check with departments, organizations or businesses that may have mailing tubes to recycle. Enjoy the conversation about your work!

Set-up and Presentation: Posters must be set up in the designated area one half hour before the poster session begins. You will be assigned an easel number indicated on the easel on which to place your poster. The poster presentation venue, time, and your easel number will be in your registration packet and listed in the symposium program. Volunteers will be available to direct you to your display area. Presenters must stand by their posters for the duration of the poster session. Wear your name badge. Be enthusiastic about your research. Greet visitors to your poster and approach people who appear interested. Introduce yourself! Conference participants will want to hear a brief (1-3 minutes) summary of your research and your poster. They may ask you to tell them about your work, explain your methods, or discuss various aspects of your results and conclusions. Rehearse your presentation before the poster session. Do not read your poster verbatim. Be prepared to answer questions about your project. Do not worry about having an answer for every question. Unexpected questions can point you to new directions for your research and uncertainties can elicit feedback, insights and helpful suggestions from others. A few volunteers will be on-hand to offer tips or suggestions upon request by presenters during the poster session. Posters must be removed immediately after the session. The Center for Research and Learning will not be responsible for materials left on the boards after the poster session.

QUESTIONS TO BE ADDRESSED BY PRESENTERS: POSTER AND ROUNDTABLE SESSIONS

1) What are you researching?

State the nature of the issue, topic or problem that you are studying. Include at least 1-2 questions your research addresses and, if possible, state your formal hypotheses (tentative assumptions you are testing through your research).

Possible Headings:
- Purpose
- Objective
- Issue
- Research question
2) Why are you researching this topic?

Briefly explain what is known about the issue, topic or problem (background). Also explain why you are researching it. For example, why is it important? Why does it interest you? What new information can you add with your research?

Possible Headings:
- Justification
- Rationale
- Motivation
- Significance
- Background

3) How are you researching this topic?

Describe what you are doing and materials you are using, e.g., lab experiments designed or conducted, interviews, surveys, library research/literature review, subjects/populations studied, conditions examined, etc. Also note theories used, developed or demonstrated. (Address what applies to research in your field.)

Possible Headings:
- Methods
- Methodology
- Design
- Study population
- Research Subjects

4) What is the status of your research?

Describe the status of your project, e.g., your initial observations (if any) and future directions; or describe your results and your conclusions (e.g., supporting or not supporting your hypothesis). What problems have you encountered? What have you learned? What do you hope to learn?

Possible Headings:
- Current status
- Progress toward results
- Results
- Discussion (interpretation of results)
- Conclusions
- Limitations of research
- Implications