Research Symposium Evaluation Criteria

HELPFUL GUIDELINES FOR STUDENTS
(Adopted From ABRCMS, 2002)

Presenters will be evaluated based on their visual material(s), research content, oral presentation, and ability to answer questions.

I. PRESENTATION
- Clarity
- Creativity
- Well planned, well articulated
- Confident about the research
- Presented in adequate time, or rushed through?
- Present at poster at judge’s time of arrival at poster?
- Is the presentation understandable to persons outside the topic area?

II. CONTENT
- Is material presented in a logical manner, highlighting important aspects?
- Does research information support important points?
- Match between question to be answered and the experiment
- Is the research adequate?
- Presence of key components: hypothesis, method, result, conclusion
- Is a complete story conveyed?
- Match between result and conclusion

III. VISUAL MATERIAL
- Neatness and legibility of display items
- Adequate number of items on display
- Clarity of data or information
- Preparation of written material
- Inclusion of key information on display
- Neat labeling: graphs, diagrams, tables
- Attractive and colorful display
- Integration of visual material into the context vs. a mere “show”.

IV. ABILITY TO ANSWER QUESTIONS
- Do answers reveal an understanding of concepts presented?
- Is there evidence that the student has a thorough understanding of the science behind the project?
- Are questions answered directly and concisely?
- How does the student handle a question to which he/she does not know the answer?
- Is the presenter able to discuss benefits or implications of the research?