ORAL PRESENTERS

WM Symposia includes presentations and papers describing research, development and operational experience over the complete spectrum of radioactive material and waste management. Proposed topics are categorized into nine general tracks. Tracks are defined as a WM Symposium subject-matter category approved by the Program Advisory Committee (PAC) based on its potential to assist in the establishment of the preliminary technical program and to benefit the interests of WM Symposia attendees, authors and reviewers. Upon approval, these topics are then presented at the Conference in various formats.

An Oral Session involves a peer-reviewed paper and a formal podium presentation supported by clear visual aids. For full Oral Sessions, a maximum of eight abstracts most consistent with the objectives of the session will be selected for presentation. Oral Sessions are typically 20 minutes long followed by 5 minutes for questions and answers. Presentation start and end times are specified in the Technical Program allowing attendees to visit selected presentations.

All papers presented in an Oral Session are published on the conference’s annual proceedings as long as all co-authors submit their signed copyrights on time. Many of these papers are acquired by various abstracting services and, thus, reach audiences well beyond the conference audience itself.

Topics with six or less abstracts are typically reduced to four presentations and converted into a half session with the remaining papers either being transferred to another oral session, assigned to a Poster Session as a back-up for a cancelled oral presentation, or assigned to a poster session if the reviewer feels that this is the best forum for exchange. Poster papers also get published in the post conference proceedings.

PANEL PRESENTERS

Panel sessions consist of invited panelists by session organizers to present on specific topics. Panel Presenters are usually senior members of an agency or a corporation, or widely recognized national and international subject matter experts.

Panel Sessions usually do not require a paper. Furthermore, the related time allotments for Panel Sessions may be different because the presentation type and length are determined by the respective Panel Organizer. Panel Presenters are asked to cooperate with their Session Co-Chair(s) in limiting the presentation to the allotted time indicated in the Final Program. At the discretion of the Session Co-Chair(s), time for questions and answers may either be allocated after each, a group or after all the presentations have been made. Report summaries of the Panel Sessions are prepared by a designated reporter and published in the conference proceedings, as are the PowerPoint graphics used by each panelist.

POSTER PRESENTERS

A Poster Session is intended to be an effective and enjoyable method of presenting scientific papers. Poster Sessions will be grouped according to Tracks. Poster Presenters are required to prepare papers for publication and follow the same guidelines as Oral Presenters. The Poster Presentations are set up in a high traffic area within the Convention Center to increase visibility and attendee interaction.

One of the significant advantages of a Poster Presentation is that it allows one-on-one time with the audience for exchange of information and to answer questions. Such time is seldom available at an oral presentation. Poster Sessions have also proven to be a better venue for presenting and getting timely feedback on more complex technical issues such as modeling and performance assessment.
Poster Presenters are encouraged to not merely display data but also verbally and visually convey the importance of their subject, including its implications and significance. In this informal atmosphere, the Poster Presenter becomes the discussion leader. Poster displays frequently require more planning and preparation than Oral Presentations and can certainly use more complex visuals. Poster Sessions usually last more than three hours; however, the presenter only needs to be present for certain time frames.

The Poster Session also provides a venue for presenting quality technical material that would ordinarily not be accepted in an Oral Session due to its limited time and capacity. Many authors enjoy the unique advantages of the Poster Sessions and choose to present their information therein. After all, all Poster Papers are also peer reviewed and published in the post-conference proceedings, as are the graphics used, making them broadly available in libraries.

**NON-PAPER POSTER PRESENTERS**

Similar to the Poster Presentations however, a paper is not required for this session, and nothing will be published. The Poster Presentations will be set up in a high traffic area within the Convention Center to increase visibility and to diversify the type of attendee exposure. Poster Presenters are encouraged to not merely display data but also the importance to visually convey the implications and significance of the work on the poster. In this informal atmosphere, speakers become discussion leaders. Poster displays frequently require more planning and preparation than oral presentations and can certainly have more complex visuals.

Please refer to the resources and forms page for further presentation information and guidelines.