

21st Meeting of the American Society for Rickettsiology
September 8-11, 2007

What is your opinion of the meeting format/structure? What changes would you suggest, if any?

- The structure of the meeting was very well put together as well as the format. It was very organized and of this moment I do not have any suggestions.
- A little too structured; would prefer a little more choice in terms of which talks I can listen to.
- I spent the 21st Meeting of the ASR the first time. I could exciting all days. Thank you.
- I really enjoyed the format. The opportunity to gain information from oral presentations in addition to the visual posters was great, especially with the well-spaced breaks throughout.
- Good format/structure; nice time-allotment for breaks; good amount of time for poster session.
- Good, have a party with band.
- Format/structure is fine.
- Excellent.
- The space for posters was very crowded. Abstracts (time) should be on-line at least one month earlier (for flight reservations).
- Great meeting – congratulations! The presentations and posters show tremendous progress as compared to the past meetings.
- The meeting format could have been improved by lengthening the poster session time and reducing the number of talks. There were several talks that would have been more appropriate as posters.
- The format was set-up very well with subject matters grouped appropriately and oral presentations and posters spaced out nicely. Program and booklet was well organized, easy to follow and informative.
- Very good; except maybe 8:15 am is too early!!
- Very well organized.
- The space for posters was too small, hard to walk around or get to see posters in corners.
- Great meeting. I appreciate that there are no concurrent sessions.
- I like it for the way it is!! I appreciate the one afternoon off to do what one wants.
- This meeting was organized perfectly – in every aspect. Thank you Kansas State folks!
- Meeting format/structure was good. I would offer breakfast items in the morning; granola and yogurt, fruit, oatmeal, biscuits, scones, etc.... especially if we don't have a choice of places to go get food. Otherwise, food here for lunch and dinner was quite good. Stayed at the Marriott – very nice! No complaints.
- Very well organized meeting. It is very convenient to have the hotel and conference in the same building. Thank you! Poster room could have been bigger.
- I like the format/structure of the meeting. It would have been helpful if there was a bit more room for the posters.

- Format/structure is pretty good – groupings are appropriate; breaks are at the right times to leave us with 1 ½ - 2 hours of seminar; posters aren't rushed and there is adequate time to process.
- Having attended some other larger meetings, I really appreciated the depth of content but at the same time the relaxed atmosphere. Most conferences run you so ragged you can't focus at the end of the day let alone meeting.
- I really appreciate the free time in the afternoon! I have a hard time paying attention late in the afternoon. I really like the 45 minutes to look at the posters so that during the poster session I have to present in, I still get to see the other posters.
- Excellent meeting – good idea to have the sessions finish early – made the days much more productive. Please keep this format.
- It was appropriate and comfortable. It allowed people to interact and to attend the speeches that were interested in.
- I really liked both the format of the talks and the choice of speakers.
- It would be great if we could have longer talks – 20-30 minutes even if we have fewer talks during the conference.
- I would like to see more time for the poster sessions.
- Format works well with breaks in oral presentations to allow for poster viewing.
- This meeting was well organized. The structure was fine with mix of topics. Maybe a little more time for posters. Chairs need to keep speakers on time. More microphones.
- It was good.
- Liked better than last year. Seemed more cohesive and wasn't spread out all over the place.
- Poster presentation room more friendly to walk by.
- Really well-organized meeting. Nice balance between basic science, ecology and immunology.
- Format/structure – fine as is – could stretch out to three full days to free-up one more evening. Changes – make sure we have enough space for all planned activities – at times we were a bit cramped when everybody got together.
- Good meeting. Well organized.
- The format of many short presentations was excellent. The program committee could have selected some of the presentations better (weak science, unsound rationale). Who does this?
- The organization of the meeting is perfect! Big “Thank you” for the organizers.
- The oral presentation time and the number of oral presentations can be reduced and give the scientists more time to interact with each other.
- It is good but I would suggest more time should be given for poster viewing session. There should be a grad student presentation (oral) session. It was great otherwise.
- I liked the format. I wish, however, there had been more room available in the room where the poster presentations were held. Good job, overall.
- Program very well done and well formatted. Might have a short talk during the second dinner, perhaps historical, to complement the first night “science” talk.

- Overall meeting format is good. But it would be nice if we had more time for Poster presentation. The poster presentation place needed more light and space.
- The format was okay; however, the area size for each poster should be better indicated. This year the area was really narrow comparing last year. Furthermore, the quality of material (walls) where we fixed the posters was weaker than last year. I used the same poster size as last year, and my posters did not fit here. Please, review these simple items. Moreover, a better breakfast should be provided!
- Good structure, great organizing. Need a bigger room for posters as the space was insufficient and very crowded.
- Very good – relaxed, with time for discussions. Poster sessions good. Please maintain a dedicated “Diagnostics” session.
- Great meeting this year! 2 micro pathogenesis sections! Have more social events at night (kegs of beer) to keep people together, especially if there aren't a lot of bars, other venues around.
- This was a very well-organized meeting. It is a good opportunity for new-comers to the field to meet established researchers and get an idea of the work being done with the organisms of interest. Suggestion: Invite more post-docs/students to speak.
- Everything was fine for the most part – poster arrangement was a bit tight. Future suggestion for a session is student emphasis. Speaker #1 – senior PI in field (1/2 hour) Speakers #2-#n – doctoral student presentations (15 min each).
- Just a few small suggestions for an otherwise excellent meeting! Keep talks on time. Sessions longer than one hour should have a 15 minute break every hour. Also, please emphasize to poster presenters the size of the available board space if it is not the traditional 4'x6'. For speakers, it would be helpful if each abstract were on a separate page with lots of white space for writing notes. Include blank note pages in the end of the book or the end of each section. Don't list all the poster titles in sequence in the schedule. Just write, “Poster Session I: Genetics, Ecology, & Epidemiology Abstracts #12-60.” Everything else was great – wonderful location, good amount of free time and socialization time. Good food, friendly atmosphere. No complaints, just small suggestions!
- 47 oral presentations/14 hrs. 104 poster presentations/2-3.5 hrs – Not enough time! Last year with posters at the end of the day so participants could choose to linger and visit, it worked out better. This year, the attendance at sessions that follow posters was poor, because people were still talking over posters at 2pm.
- I enjoyed the structure, especially with student presentations. This meeting remains one of few opportunities for students to present to a large scientific group.
- Super meeting, well run. Many thanks to Kent for putting me at ease before my talk. (Tech guys sometimes like to put you down, not put you at ease.)
- It was a good meeting – good length – enough free time. I would recommend longer talks – 20-30 minutes. 12 minutes is just not long enough to give a good background, etc.
- Meeting format/structure is pretty good. It was good to have enough time for poster viewing.

What do you suggest for future meetings: topic areas and locations?

- Locations: Nashville, TN; Baltimore, MD; Washington DC. Topic areas: The Past, Present and Future of Rickettsiology; Cat Flea Rickettsiosis (CFR); Murine Typhus.
- I would like to topic Pathogenesis and SFG (spotted fever group).
- Topic areas were great. One I would suggest for future meetings is Model Organism & Rickettsia. Future locations: a few personal favorites as far as convention cities go are San Diego and Phoenix (or Tucson).
- Model Organisms and Rickettsia. Locations: Miami, FL; Savannah, GA; New York, NY; Philadelphia, PA; Pittsburgh, PA; Las Vegas, NV; Ocean City, MD.
- No suggestions... Big Sky, MT.
- British Columbia, Seattle
- Keep Marci, et al in charge of organization.
- South America, Louisiana.
- A much better space for the posters so people can easily and freely move around. The poster segment of this meeting was very poor.
- A session focused on methods of functionally characterizing genes proposedly involved in pathogenesis (on the pathogen side) or studies where functions have been identified would be a good addition.
- North/Mid-west, New Orleans, Las Vegas
- Big Sky, MT
- Add 20-25 minute special presentations by experts on Rickettsiae on major development – symposia? More emphasis on tick-borne disease diagnostics – impact on human medicine; need more application of basic science to real life needs!
- Location: Germany
- Animals as reservoirs for arthropod-borne rickettsia/pathogens?
- I would like a meeting in warmer areas of the country (South of the US)
- Texas Hill country
- Seattle, WA; Bend, OR; Sedona, AZ
- Florida is the best location
- Topics: modeling. Locations: Hawaii, Alaska, Mexico
- Because the meeting is getting larger, perhaps more specific sessions should be considered.
- It seemed as though there were enough presentations to warrant a host-pathogen interaction session. Colorado Springs is a fantastic location! Southern California or Florida would also be nice.
- Good range of topics – no changes.
- Somewhere on walking distance of restaurants and shopping centers.
- In the future please choose meeting places that are more convenient to (within walking distance) to restaurants, starbucks, and points of interest.
- 2011 meeting in Cairns!
- In the next meeting, there should again be a “genetic manipulation” session, emphasizing progress since the previous meeting. Also, if Coxiella/Brucella

- researchers could be included, and would be an advantage, as there has been more progress to date in these organisms. For near future meeting sites: Brazil, Argentina, US East coast. 2011 Cairnes!
- Retain general basic science, epidemiology, ecology, and clinical mix of talks/posters. Next location (2009) Northeast US.
 - Locations: Please try to get a location that is not so isolated. This year and last year, attendees are prisoners of the conference location unless they hire a car or a taxi.
 - Historical aspects of rickettsiology – place the work that we are doing now in perspective. I would strongly support a joint meeting with rickettsiologists in Central and South America.
 - Topics: This year's topics were fine. Locations: East Coast is fine, Pacific Northwest or Southern US (Florida, Georgia, coastal) would also do well.
 - As a new participant, I would have liked to see a first-time attendee social/welcome/meeting or something like that.
 - More emphasis on oral presentation of pathogenesis research (best stimulation of discussion and exchange of ideas).
 - More “state of art” presentations. East Coast.
 - Signal transduction in obligate intracellular bacteria. Location: I would like to do it Key West, Florida.
 - Locations: Montana, Washington, Oregon, or any other northern states in the west and Midwest. Also, New Orleans, Las Vegas, Washington DC, New York City would make great locations.
 - Venues have been fine.
 - For future meeting, it should be somewhere at seaside and somewhere that has nice room for poster presentations, because we are on a mountain this year.
 - Session on History of Rickettsiology. Hire shuttles for scheduled transport to local attractions.
 - Diagnostics, Clinical and epidemiology. As I have to travel from Thailand, it would be good if the meetings could be held close to locations with international airports/connections.
 - Big Sky, Captiva Island, Eastern shore (not Rocky Gap), the Mexican and Australian meetings sound like great choices!
 - Some place tropical! Or at least find a conference center that is not so isolated from the rest of the city.
 - Locations for '09 – Mexico meeting as discussed, or East Coast. Topic area coverage was fine.
 - Location – Monterey (instead of Yucatan – no hurricanes and closer to US)
 - The locations the planning committee have chosen are typically good – no complaints.
 - Let's go back to a resort venue with grounds. Rickettsiologists are often naturalists fundamentally. I saw from my hotel window many colleagues trying to make the best of hiking in the suburban sprawl around the hotel.
 - Please provide a timer and a ringer to notify speakers who take too long! Meeting organization has been fantastic. Keep Linda and Marci in the future! Thanks.
 - Hawaii, Alaska, Seattle, Chicago

Please use the remaining space to write any comments you would like to share with the planning committee.

- The planning committee did an excellent job with regards to the ASR conference for 2007. It was my very first time attending and presenting at an ASR conference and I felt extremely comfortable with the environment. A+ for the planning committee.
- The meeting site was great as well. Great work by the organizing committee.
- For the most part the food was good; more breakfast choices could have been available. This meeting was an improvement over last year's with the sessions on genomics and proteomics and genetic manipulation. There needs to be an added focus within the society of determining the function of more gene products and their roles in pathogenicity despite the difficulties of not having standard techniques for genetic manipulation!
- My 1st ASR conference and was very enjoyable with very helpful and obliging people of the planning committee and members of the ASR.
- Marci Ritter did such a great job organizing meeting. It's not easy.
- The resort atmosphere of Asilomar was a very pleasant setting for this meeting.
- I thoroughly enjoyed this meeting (and the last one in Asilomar).
- Several people were looking for tea to drink. Would have had several types of tea bags (flavors) available.
- A forum or online listing (on ASR site) about open post-doc/graduate opportunities from the faculty working in rickettsiology would be a lot more useful for people looking for opportunities in this field. "ASM" does this all the time. Thank you! It also gives a way to personally interact during the conference.
- It was a pleasure to come (first time) and I plan on attending in the future.
- Food was amazing, location was great, presenters were wonderful. Thanks for a great conference.
- Good job. Everything has run very smoothly.
- Communications before the meeting were helpful and not excessive. Thank you for information about locations' tourist attractions even though timing of breaks/free time did not coincide with some operating hours.
- Congratulations for the good planning. As always, food was very good.
- No one should ever have to endure a presentation about *Coxiella burnetii* phase II. Quite a lot of better posters and presenters of posters could have given more useful oral presentations than more than a few that were selected.
- Thank the organizing committee for the outstanding work in planning, organizing, and executing the meeting.
- I would like to congratulate you all on a job well done. Great location and wonderful organization.
- Historical talk – a way to acquaint the young folks (our society's future) with what prepared the way.
- Thank you very much for good organization.
- It seems very short this year, but it may be the best time (3-4 days) for meeting. Anyway, the organization is great.

- KSU Continuing Education folks did a great job with communication and planning. Thanks!
- If possible, pre- or post-conference short courses sponsored by companies would be beneficial (eg. PCR etc.). Thanks again – very enjoyable. By the way, this is my favorite conference and the only one that I really want to attend!
- Great to have so many travel awards.
- Administrative staff superb!
- This has been the most fun conference I have been to for years. Many thanks to the organizers.