## ABRCMS Judging Rubric – ePoster Presentations (Copyright © 2025, American Society for Microbiology/ABRCMS, All Rights Reserved)

SCORE	BACKGROUND AND HYPOTHESIS OR OBJECTIVE	<b>METHODS</b> (Study Participants, Research Design, Procedures)	RESULTS	CONCLUSIONS AND FUTURE WORK
1	Background was not stated     Hypothesis/Objective was not stated	Methods were not stated	Results were not provided	Conclusions were missing     Statement about Future Work     was not included
2	<ul> <li>Background was either unclear or lacked a proper connection to the Hypothesis/Objective</li> <li>Hypothesis/Objective was not clear or relevant to the project</li> </ul>	Methods were unclear or not directly relevant to Hypothesis/Objective	Results were presented; however, they lacked sufficient data to address the Hypothesis/Objective effectively      Data were difficult to comprehend	Conclusions were included but little connection was made to the Results     Statement about Future Work was provided but did not logically follow from Results
3	Background was unclear or incomplete     Hypothesis/Objective was clear but not appropriately linked to the Background	Methods were appropriately linked to the Hypothesis/Objective however, they lacked sufficient relevant information to fully understand the procedures followed in the study	<ul> <li>Results included sufficient data to address the Hypothesis/Objective</li> <li>Data were difficult to comprehend</li> </ul>	Conclusions drawn from     Results were reasonably     supported but did not explicitly     establish relevance to the     Hypothesis/Objective     Statement about Future Work     somewhat followed the Results
4	<ul> <li>Background was clear and relevant to the Hypothesis/Objective but included information that went beyond the scope of the project</li> <li>Hypothesis/Objective was clear and appropriately linked to the Background</li> </ul>	Methods were clear, appropriately linked to the Hypothesis/Objective and provided sufficient details to understand the procedures carried out in the study	<ul> <li>Results included sufficient data to effectively address the Hypothesis/Objective</li> <li>Data were comprehensive and easily understandable</li> </ul>	Conclusions were supported by the Results but the relevance to the Hypothesis/Objective was unclear or not fully explained     Statement about Future Work logically followed from the presented Results
5	<ul> <li>Background provided a clear and relevant overview of previous research that informed the project's hypothesis/objective</li> <li>Hypothesis/Objective was clear and appropriately linked to the Background</li> </ul>	Methods were clear, effectively linked to the Hypothesis/Objective and accompanied by a clear rationale. They provided comprehensive details that enable a full understanding of the procedures conducted in the study	<ul> <li>Results included sufficient high-quality data to successfully address the Hypothesis/Objective</li> <li>Data were clear, logical, thorough, and easy to comprehend allowing for a comprehensive understanding of the findings</li> </ul>	Conclusions drawn from     Results were strongly supported     and the relevance to the     Hypothesis/Objective was     clearly demonstrated     Statement about Future Work     logically followed the Results     and included clear next steps

SCORE	OVERALL PRESENTATION	QUALITY OF THE POSTER PRESENTATION
1	<ul> <li>Lacks knowledge about the research project and does not demonstrate understanding</li> <li>Relies on reading directly from text throughout the entire presentation</li> <li>Presentation is confusing and difficult to follow</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Some of the expected components* are missing and the layout is confusing and difficult to follow</li> <li>Text in the poster is hard to read, messy and illegible, or has spelling or typographical errors</li> <li>The background of the poster is very poor</li> <li>Photographs/tables/graphs are poorly done and fail to effectively convey communication</li> </ul>
2	<ul> <li>Exhibits weak understanding of the research project</li> <li>Relies on reading directly from text most of the time</li> <li>Presentation is generally unclear</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Not all the expected components* are present and the layout is untidy and confusing to follow</li> <li>Text in the poster/slides is hard to read due to font size or color, or has spelling or typographical errors</li> <li>The background of the poster is distracting</li> <li>Photographs/tables/graphs are not related to the text or are poorly labeled or do not improve understanding of the project</li> </ul>
3	<ul> <li>Demonstrates a partial understanding of the research project</li> <li>Presentation is somewhat unclear and contains inconsistencies in the delivery of information</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Most of the expected components* are present, but the layout is confusing</li> <li>Text is relatively clear and legible, but has spelling or typographical errors</li> <li>The background of the poster is distracting</li> <li>Photographs/tables/graphs are not related to the text, or labeled correctly or do not improve understanding of the project</li> </ul>
4	<ul> <li>Demonstrates good understanding of the research project</li> <li>Communicates clearly and naturally</li> <li>Presentation is clear for the most part, but contains inconsistencies in the delivery of information</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>All expected components* are presented, but layout is crowded or jumbled making it confusing to follow</li> <li>Text is relatively clear, legible, and mostly free of spelling or typographical errors</li> <li>The background of the poster is unobtrusive</li> <li>Most photographs/tables/graphs are appropriate and labeled correctly, which improve understanding of the project</li> </ul>
5	<ul> <li>Demonstrates strong understanding of the research project</li> <li>Communicates clearly, naturally and with enthusiasm</li> <li>Presentation is logical, effective, and clearly conveys information</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>All expected components* are presented and are clearly laid out and easy to follow in the absence of presenter</li> <li>Text is concise, legible, and free of spelling or typographical errors</li> <li>The background of the poster is unobtrusive</li> <li>All photographs/tables/graphs are appropriate and labeled correctly, which improve understanding of the project and enhance the poster/slides' visual appeal</li> <li>*Components are defined as Title, Authors and Institutional Affiliation, Hypothesis/Objective, Background, Methods, Results, Conclusions, Future Work, Bibliography, and Acknowledgments</li> </ul>

