

New England Science Symposium Frequently Asked Questions

1) When people come to NESS, what should they expect?

The NESS is an invigorating experience making students feel welcomed while emboldening them to explore curiosities and employ their voice in biomedical and health-related research. Most NESS participants leave with a sense of belonging to a larger scientific community and a validation that there are others with similar life experiences sharing their journey to impact healthcare, biomedicine and science. This validation is often cathartic and empowering, endowing a scientific confidence that can be very beneficial as attendees return home. This is a great opportunity to connect with peers and professionals in your field of interest, and also to see the research being done across the country.

2) Do you have any tips for a new student who is attending for the first time?

Be sure to connect with people that you didn't know prior to the conference. This experience is about expanding your network and creating a community of supportive peers and advisors who may offer advice at every junction of your career. Make sure you take advantage of this opportunity; connect with others and ask questions!

3) Why does NESS include such a wide-range of academic levels?

The conference attendees range from college and post-baccalaureate students to medical and graduate students to postdoctoral researchers. There are high quality researchers at each level and opportunities to network and learn from a cohort of individuals that span the academic spectrum.

4) What types of projects will be presented at the symposium?

The categories for submitting an abstract are Public Health, Epidemiology or Biostatistics; Microbiology, Immunology, Genetics or Molecular Biology; Cellular Biology, Neuroscience, Biochemistry or Physiology, Bioinformatics, Physics, Chemistry or Engineering, Clinical or Social Science (including Translational Research). These categories are intentionally broad to accommodate a variety of research topics. The committee does consider all abstracts irrespective of field or focus. There will be awards for outstanding oral and poster presentations in various disciplines and categories: Ruth and William Silen, M.D. Awards, Dana-Farber/Harvard Cancer Center Awards, Postdoctoral Awards, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center Department of Neonatology Award, TACS BIO Stem Cell and Regenerative Medicine Award, American Cancer Society Awards, and Prophet Genomics Translational Research Award.

5) Who will be judging the presentations?

Our judges are professionals from academia, the biopharmaceutical industry, government and the private sector. We do not disclose the list of judges prior to the symposium.

6) What are the judges looking for in a winning oral/poster presentation?

Your research will be judged on quality of research, scientific rigor, impact as well as your ability to communicate these points. NESS not only provides an opportunity to present your ideas to your peers and the scientific community, but also the chance to hone your presentation skills. A good research project will have a clear hypothesis, stated methods for testing the hypothesis, and clearly demonstrated results.

7) What should I wear?

There are many opportunities to network at NESS. Your attire should be compliant with these opportunities. You should look polished. Comfortable business attire is recommended.

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8) Do I need permission from my PI or co-authors to submit an abstract?

Yes. Never submit an abstract without prior approval from your PI or research sponsor. It is also best practice to make sure all of your co-authors are aware that the abstract is being submitted.

9) What is the schedule of the conference?

Please see NESS website for agenda.

10) Can I make changes to the abstract once I have submitted it?

An invitation to present at the symposium is based on your submitted abstract. Only minor changes are allowed and must be consistent with the spirit of the argument presented in the original abstract.