

Guidelines to Prepare Discussion for the American Ophthalmological Society Meeting

STRUCTURE OF THE DISCUSSANT PRESENTATION

As the discussant, you should receive the PowerPoint presentation, talking points, and/or the exact verbal presentation from the AOS member presenter at least 45 days prior to the meeting. Violations of this rule should be reported immediately to the Chair of the Committee on Programs or the Executive Vice President.

Discussions are no longer published in the Transactions of the AOS, so you do not need to provide the Editor with your written comments.

The Discussant should critique the results and conclusions of the presentation, identify significant limitations or qualifications of the study, provide comments about contradictory literature, and indicate if the authors' conclusions are directly supported by the data. The author should be criticized for any excessive generalization and undue speculation. Emphasize both the positive and negative findings of the study. The Discussant might also state whether and what additional studies are required and conclude with the implications supported by the study.

THE PRESENTATION AT THE AOS MEETING

The podium presentation by the Discussant must be in PowerPoint for PC and should be provided to the audiovisual technician in CD-ROM or USB flash drive at least 4 hours prior to presentation. Alternatively, the Discussant may present a verbal presentation without PowerPoint slides (except for the disclosure slide—see below). Discussants are NOT permitted to use their own laptop computers. You will be provided a comfort display monitor in front of the podium.

Although CME is not always offered for the program, the AOS always follows ACCME disclosure guidelines. The first slide of your Discussion must provide ALL financial disclosures related to ANY commercial ophthalmic company over the previous 2 years. This slide is required even if you have only a verbal presentation without slides. You should indicate verbally which of these involvements might relate to your Discussion. Prior to the meeting, you will receive by email a PowerPoint template that you should use as a guide to create your financial disclosure slide. When you present your slides to the audiovisual technician prior to your presentation, the technician will check for this slide. If a disclosure slide is not present, you will not be allowed to present until one has been inserted as your first slide. You should pause on this slide and comment on the content. The same slide should indicate whether you will discuss off-label usage (very common in presentations).

Presentations are strictly limited to 3 minutes, and a timer is provided on the podium. The microphone may be turned off after 3 minutes. The authors are reminded to seek objectivity, use best available evidence, avoid using commercial slides, and be aware that the learners in their evaluations of this activity will be asked if commercial bias was present.