Reviewer's report

Title: What impact do posters have on academic knowledge transfer? A pilot survey on author attitudes and experiences

Version: 1 Date: 22 June 2009

Reviewer: p Smith

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Comments for the authors:

This is an interesting area of study and more work on the value of posters at academic meetings is clearly justified, given their widespread use.

The work presented is a small survey of opinions of delegates about the value of academic posters at two meetings.

1) The paper, particularly the introduction will need to be much shorter (and maybe better presented as a letter)

2) The survey response is low, and the sample size is small. Although this is often the case with surveys, the authors had the opportunity here to remind and persuade delegates to complete the surveys (unlike a postal survey) and so the response rate is disappointing.

3) There is no proper statistical analysis of the data presented.

4) There is no indication as to the generalisability of these data, i.e. how delegates at these two Bournemouth conferences would compare to other scientific meetings

5) There is no mention of how much or little time people spend viewing posters.


7) Some discussion on the misuse of posters would have been useful, e.g. how most major conferences generate revenue by accepting all abstracts, and how certain authors or industry use and cite published abstracts as publications, even though there is no peer review and acceptance is almost guaranteed.