

Examples of small-group presentations

Past and present faculty have provided the following examples of participant presentations that were especially successful and well-received at prior workshops.

“Our most successful presentations this year involved a question of clinical policy (How do we decide at what age a person should not get screening colonoscopy?), and a presentation of a diagnostic test paper that was found in response to a concern that the individual physician had. Another physician chose to present some of the fundamentals of medical math—odds ratios, hazard ratios, absolute risk reduction, and relative risk reduction. In short, I would suggest that presentations be made on a topic of interest to the presenter and kept succinct and focused on the issue at hand.”

“Perhaps our best presentation this year was an informal talk about RR, ARR, NNT that the participant wanted to be able to give on the fly in attending rounds (part of his “10-minute tool kit”). What was good about it was that it started with a real example in which a resident had been the “patient” (a resident had come to this attending with a clinical question about himself). The story was interesting and got people’s attention, and it was a good springboard for quickly talking about a straight-forward article that addressed the clinical question and how to interpret RR, ARR, and NNT.”

“The presentation which was memorable for me this year was led by our psychiatry participant.

She presented: “Why Olanzapine beats Risperidone, Risperidone beats Quetiapine, and Quetiapine beats Olanzapine: an exploratory analysis of head-to-head comparison of second-generation antipsychotics. Heres, Stephan et al. Am J Psychiatry 163:2, Feb. 2006. It focused on the sources of bias from industry funded research.”

“I remember various presentations using these formats and techniques:

- Debate format to highlight different positions on a controversial paper
- Clinical Practice Guidelines – assigning different roles and perspectives to each person in the group for discussion of the guidelines
- Short (15-minute) synopsis of a paper – trying to replicate what might happen if a question came up on rounds and you wanted to follow up with evidence the next day
- Use of ACP Journal Club to quickly facilitate discussion of an article
- Short (10-minute) description of what a likelihood ratio is and why we should care”