Best Practices for Inclusion of Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Scientists at Conferences

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https://youtu.be/TRIRAKz6FF4
Overview

- Diversity in the Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Community
- Survey Methodology
- Survey Questions
- Suggestions for Improved Conference Participation
Diversity in Communication

- American Sign Language
- Signed English
- Spoken English
- Cochlear Implants
- Deaf from Birth
- Deaf at a Later Date
Survey Approach

• 4 D/HoH Scientists in Rochester, NY
• 7 Open Ended Questions
• Face-to-Face Interviews
  – Two required interpreters
  – Two did not
Questions

1. What scientific meetings have you attended?
2. What worked well for you as a deaf person?
3. What could be improved?
4. What does equal access mean to you?
5. What accommodations do you require for talks, posters, and informal conversations?
6. How could we train conference attendees to engage with D/HoH people?
7. Any other thoughts?
Scientific Meetings
Best Practices For Conference Organizers

- Study ADA requirements
- Learn the terms
- Start early
- Work with local agencies
- Think logistics
- Schedule interpreters and captioning for keynote, plenary and breakout sessions
Best Practices For Conference Attendees

• Notify the conference when you register
• Communicate with the organizers
• If you present, send the interpreters your slides early
• Help the conference find service providers
Best Practices For Conference Attendees

• Submit your slides or poster early
• Speak to the person, not the interpreter
• Ask for clarification if you need it
• Just relax
Summary

• The Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing community is highly diverse and wants to communicate with you.
• Traditional conference formats do not work well for Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing members
• Access to interpreters, captioning, reserved seating make inclusion possible.
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