PHYS 590 Class Meeting: Final Deliverables

Alex Wright

March 2 & 6, 2026

Final Reports

- Final reports are due at 5pm on March 26. Please email the report in PDF form to me and your advisor.
- Reports should be no more than 20 pages, including figures but not including bibliography and appendices.
- The style and formatting of the reports should be similar to the mid-year report: journal formatting in either the Physical Review or Astrophysical Journal style
  - See my slides from November for hints and suggestions

Final Report Draft

- Report drafts are due on March 12
  - Please submit a PDF by email to me and your advisor

Written Report Drafts (Midyear and Final)

Report drafts are due about two weeks before each of the major reports. These drafts, in pdf form, should be sent electronically to your supervisor and the course coordinator for comment/feedback. The drafts are meant to be an opportunity for us to provide you with constructive feedback, so the more complete the draft the more useful our feedback can be. The drafts should include at a minimum a properly formatted skeleton of the paper with section headings, an image, and a point form outline of what you plan to say in each section – this will help you get started with your thinking about the draft contents and ensure you have the formatting tools in place. This is intended to be helpful, and will be graded as either 0 or 1/1. Should you receive 0, the mark will be dropped and the weighting assigned to this component in your overall mark will be added to the corresponding written report.

This really is meant to help you!

Final Report Grading

- The grading of the final report will be done similarly to the midyear report, but with less emphasis on specific style elements and more emphasis on your research accomplishments
- Be sure that your report highlights your understanding of the project at all levels, and clearly spells out your personal contributions and accomplishments
  - "a significant innovation in the present work was…."
  - "existing models were extended in the following key ways…."
  - "key new findings of the current work include…."
- Research doesn't always "turn out" like it was supposed to. If your project hit a snag and you didn't get the result you were hoping for, it is still important describe what you did as thoroughly as you can.
  - The structure of the paper can be more-or-less the same, but with the results/conclusion describing the unexpected result and the reason(s) you think they may have occurred.
  - It is important that you help the reviewers to understand that the approach you took was well thought out and well executed, and the unexpected result was because of unexpected physics – not because you didn't think about or execute things carefully
  - Reviewers are told that the majority of the credit can be awarded to good projects that "just didn't work" – but projects that didn't work for preventable reasons should receive a lower score.

Poster Session

- The poster session will be:
  - Wednesday, April 8
  - On Stirling 3rd floor foyer & environs.
  - In conjunction with the poster session for ENPH 455
- There will hopefully be an "open house" for the Department, with food provided – I will send a schedule once details are finalized
- For the evaluation, you will be visited by your two examiners separately
  - I will provide you with your schedule in advance
  - Each examiner will typically be at your poster for 20 minutes or so.
  - I will try to group your examinations together so that you don't have to be there all day.

Poster Printing

- Posters should be 3’ x 4’ (be sure to set the size correctly in your layout software).
- Poster printing can be done “for free” in the chemistry department.
  - Physics will cover the cost of printing one poster for each of you – reprints are at your expense!
  - Posters must be submitted for printing by 9:00 am on Monday April 6th. No revisions are possible after submitting - see the submission instruction sheet posted on the course web site.
- Printing can also be done commercially (Media Centre, Staples, etc) at your expense (possible closer to the deadline!)
- Please email me a PDF copy of your poster for my records!

Poster Presentation

- You will probably be asked by the examiners to introduce your poster, so I recommend preparing and practicing a 5-10 minute talk. You should be prepared to be interrupted/sidetracked with questions, and that is OK – it is often best if the meeting turns into a discussion.
- The poster + presentation should aim to convey essentially the same information as your report
  - Give the context of your project, describe what you did, and highlight your personal contributions and results
  - The poster necessarily includes a "higher level" view than the detailed report

Poster Tips

- A poster should capture and convey the key points of your project in a clear and visually appealing way
- The amount of content that you can fit on a poster and still have it intelligible is quite limited
  - Some suggest 500-800 word maximum
  - Think carefully about what to include (what information/figures/etc do you need to have at hand to explain your project to someone, and what things are “extras” that you can add in discussions)
  - Aim to have the ‘key points” legible from 2-3m away
    - I suggest printing “test fonts” and trying them

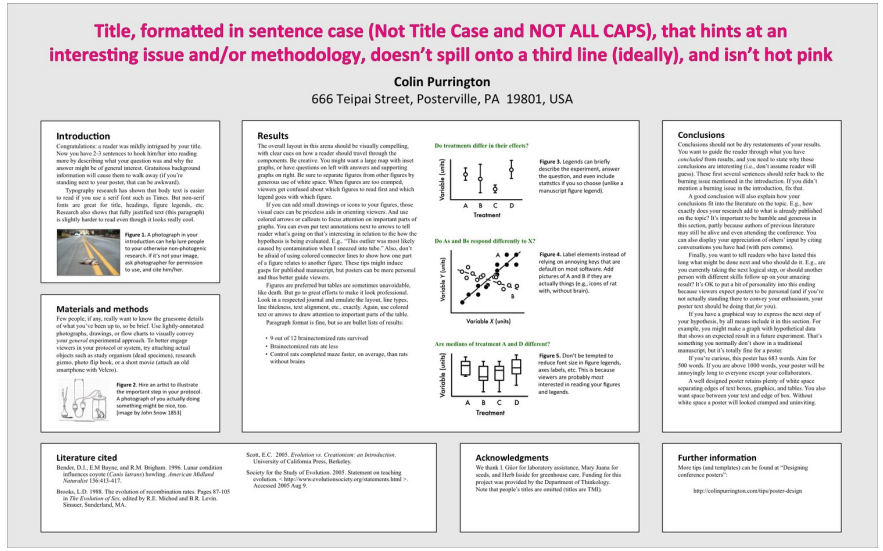

Image from colinpurrington.com/tips/poster-design

Poster Tips

- One of the biggest challenges is preventing your poster from appearing “cluttered”
  - Formatting/layout, limiting text, and careful use of figures is key
  - Thinking about fonts, font sizes, colour schemes, etc, can have a big impact in making your poster visually appealing and easy to follow
- Look at examples online to see what style ‘works’ for you!

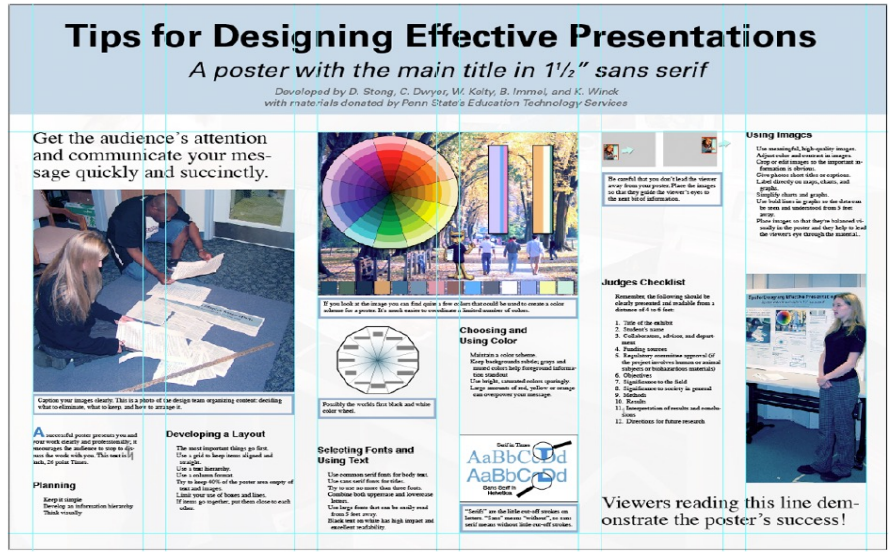

Image from personal.psu.edu/drs18/postershow/

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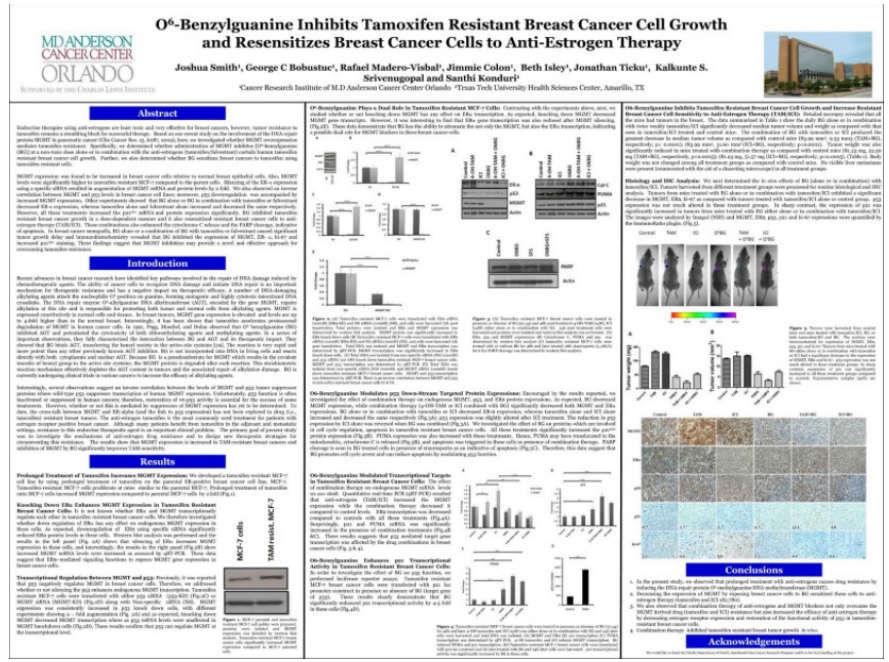
O⁶-Benzylguanine Inhibits Tamoxifen Resistant Breast Cancer Cell Growth and Resensitizes Breast Cancer Cells to Anti-Estrogen Therapy

Joshua Smith[1], George C Bobustuc[1], Rafael Madero-Visbal[1], Jimmie Colon[1], Beth Isley[1], Jonathan Ticku[1], Kalkunte S. Srivenugopal and Santhi Kondur[1]

[1]Cancer Research Institute of M.D Anderson Cancer Center Orlando [2]Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center, Amarillo, TX

Abstract

Introduction

Results

Conclusions

Acknowledgements

Image from betterposters.blogspot.ca

Some online resources for poster making:

- https://colinpurrington.com/tips/poster-design This extensive site includes poster templates
- http://betterposters.blogspot.ca Yes, there really is a whole blog about making posters (look back at older posts, though, as it has recently become quite commercial)….
- https://guides.nyu.edu/posters