

## Topic 9. Participation in a scientific conference

### Learning Objectives

What is a scientific conference? Its definition and purpose

Benefits of participation

Conference size and types

Organization with Examples

How to find information about scientific conferences?

Dubious conferences: how to recognize and avoid them

Types of participation

Tips on making presentation

### Glossary of Terms

- \* **Academic publishing** is the subfield of **publishing which distributes academic research and scholarship.**
- \* **Scientific journal** is a **periodical publication** intended to further the progress of science, usually by reporting new research.
- \* **E-print** is a **digital version of a research document** that is accessible online. usually a journal article, but could also be a thesis, conference paper, book chapter, or a book
- \* A **presentation** conveys information from a speaker to an audience.
- \* The **key elements of a presentation** are the **presenter, audience, message, reaction and method to deliver speech in an effective manner**
- \* **Chairperson (chairman or chairwoman)** is a person designated to preside over a meeting, i.e. to be in the position of authority in a meeting or other gathering
- \* **Moderator** is a person who moderates (i.e. makes less extreme, or intense or rigorous) an internet forum or online discussion (for example, a **keynote speaker panel**).

Let's start by defining what a scientific conference is.

An academic conference or scientific conference (also symposium, workshop, or meeting) is an event for researchers (not necessarily academics) to present and discuss their work [1]

Thus, scientific conferences or congresses are held for researchers to introduce and present their works and connect each other so that they can share their information [2].

## **Why do researchers like to attend conferences? What are the benefits for participants?**

First of all, attendees must present their paper for other researchers in the relevant field to theirs.

Actually, it brings about getting feedbacks and criticism which helps them with improving the work and increasing their professional stature in their field.

Also, for participants, it is a way to find collaborators for future projects as **it makes a network of people from all over the world** who have the same area of studies and questions. **And English is a tool for it!**

So, scientific conferences express the latest findings in the particular field and make the participants **up to date** on the scope which they are searching about.

One of the main reasons that make researchers attend a conference is **having their paper published.**

So, publication opportunities are an important component of a scientific conference.

Together with scientific journals and Eprint archives, **conferences provide an important channel for exchange of information between researchers [2, 3].**

### **Conferences can be of different sizes and types.**

A large meeting will usually be called a **conference**, while a smaller is termed a **workshop**.

**The single track** conference has only *one session at a time*, while a multiple track meeting has *several parallel sessions with speakers in separate rooms speaking at the same time*.

The larger the conference, the more likely it is that **academic publishing houses** may set up displays.

Large conferences also may have a career and job search and interview activities and may have exhibitions.

At some conferences, social or entertainment activities such as tours and receptions can be part of the program.

These are also reasons to love attending conferences, right?

Academic conferences typically fall into three categories:  
the themed conference, small conferences organized around a particular topic;

the general conference, a conference with a wider focus, with sessions on a wide variety of topics. These conferences are often organized by national or international learned societies, and held annually or on some other regular basis.

the professional conference, large conferences not limited to academics but with academically related issues.

Conferences are usually organized either by a scientific society or by a group of researchers with a common interest.

I would like to share with you three examples of conference organization. I chose them to encourage you to participate in scientific events.

Microscience Microscopy Congress (mmc) and Exhibition are held by the Royal Microscopical Society (RMS) every two years [4].

RMS is the oldest in the world learned society for the promotion of microscopy. It was founded in 1839 in London.

The society publishes its own scientific journal, the *Journal of Microscopy* and *infocus Magazine* by Wiley-Blackwell

RMS is a registered charity that is dedicated to advancing science and developing careers. So, I was lucky to get RMS Travel Bursary to attend mmc2019 Conference and Exhibition. I applied for this travel scholarship on the congress website. I made a presentation and received a publication in the *Journal of Microscopy*.

You can also explore conference websites to find your options.

For example, the 11th IEEE International Conference on Intelligent Data Acquisition and Advanced Computing Systems: Technology and Applications, was held online at Cracow University of Technology, Poland [5].

The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) is a professional association for electronic and electrical engineering, formed in 1963 in the US [6].

They sponsored the Best Young Writer Award, which my PhD student was awarded after speaking at this conference!

Kazakh universities also hold international conferences

You are welcome to participate in annual International Scientific and Technical Conference for students, undergraduates and young scientists "Creativity of young - innovative development of Kazakhstan" at EKTU in April.

EKTU also held the International online Conference "Advanced materials manufacturing and research: new technologies and methods in 2021 [7]. This was a "unique round-the-clock and round-the-globe" event featuring 50 participants from 12 countries.

Due the [COVID-19 pandemics](#), the new format of online events emerged. Nowadays, you can attend a conference in any country online.

You should take into account the location and infrastructure of the selected conference to figure out the time difference and your ability to attend different conference sections.

And of course, you have to pay a conference fee to register at the conference, so to pay for the services provided.

All this information you can find on a conference website. You can check out websites I mentioned during this lecture.

*It is very useful to explore of the regular conference websites so you know exactly when the next conference will be held.*

I believe, you are asking now: **How do I find information about scientific conferences?**

First of all, please consult with your supervisor!

Explore your university website

Search by keywords on the Internet

Read emails

**And finally check the information you found to recognize and avoid dubious conferences**

**There could be predatory conferences.**

Bogus or predatory meetings are meetings set up to appear as legitimate scientific conferences but which are exploitative as **they do not provide proper editorial control over presentations**, and advertising can include claims of involvement of prominent academics who are, in fact, uninvolved.

I would like to share the advice that was received when discussing this question at Research Gate [8]: "If you look at the conference web site and cannot find an address or email contact or recognizable (or web-searchable) name for the organization that is sponsoring the conference this **should be a red flag**".

So, you found your conference, how would you to participate in?

There are different types of participation

You may be invited to deliver a keynote or plenary speech. In this case, all conference participants are interested to hear your speech. It is a great honor and responsibility.

Or you can make an oral presentation at the conference section. If your research is interesting, then you can also be an invited speaker.

Other options might be a poster presentation or attending a conference as a listener. In the latter case, you won't be able to get a post-conference publication, but you can learn something new.

Delivering an oral presentation in English isn't easy, even if you're good at your research.

You can find good tips on how to make Power Point presentations for international conferences at this link [9].

Perhaps, for a start, it is better to choose not an oral, but a poster presentation in English. Presenting and discussing posters is fun!

In any case, before making your presentation, complete writing your research paper for publication in the proper format according to the organizer's paper format.

Then prepare your presentation by following the sequence of your content.

The title and the author's details (name, designation/ position, department of study, university or institution's name, city, country)

Research Background or Motivation, Goal of research

Research methods (put the proposed model and procedure of the study/data collection)

Results /Research finding and your contribution

Conclusion

Future studies

Thus, as a result of this lecture you got the following learning outcomes:

- \* You are able to find information about the conference and choose the type of participation
- \* You are able to organize the content of your presentation.

#### References

1. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Academic\\_conference](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Academic_conference)
2. <https://ntelt.cikd.ca/scientific-conferences-purpose/>
3. <http://www.apmascongress.org/>

4. <https://www.mmc-series.org.uk/>
5. <https://www.idaacs.net/2021>
6. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Institute\\_of\\_Electrical\\_and\\_Electronics\\_Engineers](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Institute_of_Electrical_and_Electronics_Engineers)
7. <https://sites.google.com/view/ammr-2021/people/speakers>
8. <https://www.researchgate.net/post/Dubious-conference-invitations-Just-spam-or-do-these-meetings-actually-take-place>
9. <https://www.whatisresearch.com/how-to-make-ppt-for-international-conference/>