

Interactive Session (60 minutes) Formats (Select One)

1. Roving Microphone/Speaker Format

The speaker introduces the topic briefly. She/ he then presents a case or problem, either clinical or scientific, posing a specific question to the audience. Using a roving microphone, the Speaker travels among the audience asking individuals their opinion on the problem and the supporting evidence. Once a topic is exhausted or comes to a logical conclusion, the Speaker briefly summarizes the known literature on that topic and moves to the next case or topic, the goal being to cover 3 or more topics if time allows while getting maximum input from the audience. For a topic with both clinical and basic science aspects, there could be two speakers, a clinician and a basic scientist. A Moderator is not required for this format.

2. Case Presentation Formats

A. Expert Discussion of Specific Topic using Prepared Cases, 3 – 4 Audience Response Questions per case.

The moderator (also one of the speakers) introduces a specific topic and 2 or 3 speakers who will cover individual areas of the topic (clinical and/or scientific). Each individual speaker will present a case or scenario followed by 1 – 2 multiple choice questions posed to the audience who respond using the audience response system. Participants will be solicited to discuss why they chose an answer and the speaker will stimulate discussion. For each topic, the Speaker will conclude with one bulleted slide that summarizes their interpretation of the current literature and may be supplemented by 1 – 3 data slides only. The process is repeated with the next Speaker(s). Ideally, 2 - 3 Speakers will present cases over 15-20 minutes each.

B. Cases Submitted by Participants in Advance (either prepared case discussion or stump-the-professor format)

A panel of experts is present with expertise that covers any or all of the following areas: endocrinology, male and female infertility, ART (clinical and scientific), and perhaps genetics (the composition of the panel may be based on the cases chosen). Scientific Congress preregistrants are polled several weeks in advance of the Annual Meeting for cases they have encountered related to the topic that they would like to have discussed and asked if they would like to present their case. The moderator, or preferably the participant who submitted the case, presents the challenging case and the expert on that topic moderates an audience discussion of the evidence pertaining to the problem, calling on other panelists as necessary. At the end of the discussion, the expert gives a summary and conclusion from the discussion perhaps using a bulleted slide. A moderator is required for this format. The moderator would be responsible for bringing additional case(s) should time allow or preferably for asking for additional cases from the audience for discussion.

3. Debate

The planners select a controversial topic related to clinical or laboratory practice for which there is disagreement among reproductive medicine professionals. For example, the optimal surgical or medical approach to a clinical problem would be appropriate, as would differing approaches of the different professions (nurse, physician, psychologist, etc.) to the same problem. This format employs a neutral moderator and two (pro, con) debaters who genuinely disagree about the proposed question. The moderator defines the question (2-3 min) with one slide. Each debater then presents his/her arguments in 10 min using 2-3 slides. The Moderator solicits comments from the audience (20 min), after which each debater is given the opportunity (5 min) to rebut the opponent and the comments from the audience. Finally, the moderator sums the debate and proposes conclusions. This format could be used for a classic topical debate or a video debate. For the latter, 2 different techniques for the same surgical problem are presented and critiqued/ pros and cons debated.

4. Panel Discussion

A. Classic Panel Discussion

This format employs a moderator and 2-3 panelists. The panelists either can have opposing views on a topic, or they can represent different aspects of the same problem. The Moderator gives a brief (5-10 min) but provocative introduction to define the topic or problem and pose one or more questions using 1-2 slides. He/she then asks each panelist to give a brief (5 min) summary of his/her perceived, evidence-based answer. Each panelist may show 2-3 slides. The moderator then asks for questions from the audience and directs them to the appropriate panelist for answers. During this phase (30 min) audience members participate in the discussion by going to the microphone and offering comments and challenging the panelists with additional questions. The moderator then gives a summary and conclusions from the discussion.

B. Alternate Panel Format (“Jimmy Fallon” format)

This format also employs a moderator and 2-3 panelists. The panelists either can have opposing views on a topic, or they can represent different aspects of the same problem. The setting has a desk, sofa, and a few other “home-like” props arranged on the stage. The benefit of this setting is to set the stage for a lighter, less formal and perhaps humorous engagement of the audience. The moderator gives a brief (5-10 min) but provocative introduction to define the topic or problem and poses one or more provocative questions using 1-2 slides. He/she then invites the panelists one-by-one or all at the same time to the sofa to give brief (5-min) summaries of their perceived, evidence-based answers. Each panelist may show 1-3 slides. The moderator then asks for questions or comments from the audience and directs them to the appropriate panelist for answers. During this phase audience members participate in the discussion by going to the microphone and offering comments and challenging the panelists with additional questions. If an expert is identified in the audience who goes to the microphone to comment or question, he or she could be invited to join the panel on the sofa. The next panelist is invited for a similar

process if the one-by-one format is used. The moderator then gives a summary and conclusions from the discussion. This format may work very well for moderators who could be humorously engaging and with topics that are lighter or even don't have known best answers. For example, ethics, while not a lighter topic, does not necessarily have straightforward answers.

5. Team-based Learning

The moderator gives a brief (5-min) introduction to define the topic or problem with 1 – 2 slides. She/he presents a series of defined and related questions, each with multiple choice answers around the topic. Audience participants break up into small groups of 4- 10. Ideally the room is set up with round tables and the participants at a table become a discussion group. After the speaker poses the individual questions, the members of each group discuss the evidence around the questions and develop evidence-based consensus answers for each question (10 min each). Each group is given a set of 5 paddles each with a different letter (A – E) displayed on them. The moderator then asks for a show of answers, each group displaying the letter (A – E) that they chose as the correct answer. The moderator then calls on groups with different answers displayed and asks why they chose that particular answer. For some topics such as ethics, there may not be a correct answer. For others, when there is an evidence-based best answer the moderator shows a slide with bulleted points about the correct answer or several data slides supporting this answer. If two problems are presented, 20 minutes will be allotted to each (including individual small group discussions and large group discussion). If 3 problems are asked, then 15 minutes will be allotted to each. The moderator will summarize the conclusions verbally at the end of the session. Alternatively, open-ended questions could be given and the groups individually canvassed after caucus for their answer and rationale.

Tools for providing up-to- date evidence for any of above: Handout given as participants leave with a page of bulleted points about the topic and most recent and relevant references or perhaps a list of the references alone