



# 36th International **Symposium** on ALS/MND

5-7 December 2025

# San Diego, USA

(plus selected virtual content)

Organised by the Motor Neurone Disease Association

**ALS**  
ASSOCIATION

Host: The ALS Association

# Oral Presentation Guidelines

# Oral Presentation Guidelines

Presenters who have been offered a platform session will be expected to attend in-person and deliver their presentation live in San Diego, USA. All sessions will be recorded, with a pre-selected number of sessions being live-streamed to the virtual audience. All of the sessions and presentations will be available on the virtual platform for registered delegates to view for up to three months after the event.

By the end of this document, you will know more about your platform presentation and gain useful tips to ensure your data makes a strong impact. On arrival at the Symposium, you will be asked to enter the Speaker room up to two hours before your oral presentation to upload your slides, therefore you must bring your presentation on a memory stick or laptop to the event.

As stated in the Conditions of Acceptance, presenting authors of accepted oral presentations are required to attend in-person and bring their presentations on a memory stick or laptop.

If for any reason you are unable to attend the Symposium in-person it is crucial that you email the team at [\*\*abstracts@mndassociation.org\*\*](mailto:abstracts@mndassociation.org) as soon as possible to allow for the programme to be updated. To avoid issues upon entering the United States, please apply for your VISA or ESTA early if you require one.

If you have any other questions or issues please get in touch with the research team at [\*\*abstracts@mndassociation.org\*\*](mailto:abstracts@mndassociation.org)

## **This document contains information on:**

- [Oral Presentation Slide Guidelines](#)
- [Platform Session Information](#)

# Oral Presentation Slide Guidelines

## Planning and Design

The Symposium is mostly attended by experts in MND research, an introduction into ALS/ MND is not needed. However, due to each project being unique and specialised we ask that your presentation includes a background to introduce your specific field.

Additionally, English may not be the majority of attendees first language so please bear this in mind when presenting.

1

**Title and Disclaimers** - should be clear and simple: state research project title and any disclaimers you may have presenting research findings.

2

**Background** - Clearly introduce your field of study aimed at a lay audience.  
*e.g. Explain incidence rates, show TDP-43 leaves the nucleus in mutant models. Then introduce your project such as working in specific cell models to better understand...*

3

**Clear Layout** - Different sections should be clearly set out and not replicate an academic paper. Data should be easily interpreted and slides should be aimed at a basic scientist level with high level discussions. Slides that are content heavy and high level risk losing your audiences' attention so keep it easy to follow.

4

**Reduce text, focus on images** - More text on a slide will increase the time taken to read slides and reduce the amount of people listening. Using visuals and key points on slides increases attention on your presentation and allows key messages to be remembered.

5

**Less is often more** – We are not looking for you to summarise the past 5 years of research in one 15 minute presentation: pick the key points and one storyline that builds a picture of what has previously happened, what was developed, where we are now and what comes next. Context can be built in further discussions within the Q&A and poster hall.

6

**Take home message** - The conclusion should summarize the content with brevity and clarity.

## Slide length and design

Each presentation is usually allocated a slot in the programme that lasts between 15 and 30 minutes, which is the total time for both your presentation and five-minutes of questions. Your presentation should highlight the key findings of your research. We recommend aiming for one slide a minute to avoid running over time.

## Online Scientific Presentation Resources

For more presentation hints and tips:

- [Using infographics to boost your presentation](https://proofed.com/writing-tips/how-to-use-infographics-to-boost-your-presentation) | [proofed.com/writing-tips/how-to-use-infographics-to-boost-your-presentation](https://proofed.com/writing-tips/how-to-use-infographics-to-boost-your-presentation)
- [9 simple and effective public speaking tips for scientists](https://scientifica.uk.com/neurowire/9-simple-and-effective-public-speaking-tips-for-scientists) | [scientifica.uk.com/neurowire/9-simple-and-effective-public-speaking-tips-for-scientists](https://scientifica.uk.com/neurowire/9-simple-and-effective-public-speaking-tips-for-scientists)

## Presentation Tips

**Be prepared** - Practice your presentation beforehand. This will pay off, especially if English is not your first language. If there are any difficult words or technical jargon, then make sure you can say them. The correct pronunciation and knowledge of industry language will give you credibility.

**Pay attention to your time constraints** - Your time slot determines the length and depth of your presentation. If you have been allocated a time slot then you will need to be aware of leaving time for questions and a healthy discussion from your peers, which will mean your allotted time will be reduced by five minutes. Please do not go over your allocated time slot: the programme is set to allow adequate time for breaks between sessions and running over will have knock-on effects on your peers. Practicing your presentation will ensure you can go into the key points and detail while fitting into your time slot.

**Be enthusiastic** - You are the expert in your field: being enthusiastic during your presentation will spark interest and enthusiasm in your audience. The audience want to learn about your research so keep a steady pace so as not to lose anyone, project your voice so you can be heard at the back of the room, speak clearly and slowly as your audience cannot learn if they cannot hear you! Pause to help the audience absorb your information and take notes.

**Know your audience** - The majority of the audience will be within the broad field of MND research, therefore an explanation of ALS/MND or symptoms is not needed. However the audiences' knowledge can vary drastically when referring to specific topics. Those present may include patient fellows, industry members, PhD students, people from other fields of study looking to broaden their knowledge or representatives from other related neurodegenerative disease fields such as Dementia or Parkinson's Disease. Therefore, it is important that your presentation is accessible to all who would like to learn about your research.

# Platform Session Information and timings

The International Symposium on ALS/MND typically runs over three parallel sessions: Biomedical, Clinical and Alternative. Your presentation will fit into one of these tracks and a session that relates to the field.

## Timeline of Events

- 1** In August you will have received your oral presentation slot, which needs to be accepted. You must also register by **5 September** to be confirmed in the programme. Presenting authors not registered by this deadline will be automatically withdrawn and the slot will be offered to someone else.
- 2** The provisional programme is published in September/October, when you will be able to see which session you are presenting in, and the timing.
- 3** Once you are aware of your presentation timings, you can prepare your slides.

## Uploading Instructions

- 4** You do not need to upload your presentation slides before the event. Please bring a copy of your slides on a memory stick or laptop to the event in-person.
- 5** Upon arrival at the registration desk, you will be directed to a speaker room where you will be able to upload your slides up to two hours before your session begins.
- 6** If you would like to send them before the event or have any questions, please email [abstracts@mndassociation.org](mailto:abstracts@mndassociation.org)