



Reflections and refinements for the annual 'NJ ACTS Translational Medicine and Science Symposium'

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Introduction: The first annual 'NJ ACTS Translational Medicine and Science Symposium' was held in September 2021. During the two-day symposium, selected authors presented their research by means of posters and verbal presentations to a virtual audience. The purpose of the symposium is to share today's latest research in four pre-selected topics with the NJ ACTS scientific community. Since this was the first annual symposium, metrics were obtained to prepare for an improved experience in coming years.

Methods: Data was collected from those who participated in any aspect of the event to gain a better understanding of what was proficient and what could be refined in the future. Those who planned the symposium verbally discussed the aspects of the event which caused difficulty, and created a new plan of action for next year. Presenters and audience members completed a sixty-two question survey to share their opinions about different features of the symposium.

Results: After thorough review of the survey results paired with the NJ ACTS event staff post-symposium discussion, several areas for improvement were identified. Ninety-eight percent of survey participants had a positive experience at the symposium. However, several participants suggested that there could be more comprehensive instructions about how to use one of the applications used during the poster presentations, Gather. NJ ACTS event staff will create a new system to ensure all participants can use Gather with ease. The demographics of survey participants showed that there were low numbers of undergraduate and graduate students in attendance. New advertising techniques will be used in the future to increase attendance in these groups. Lastly, NJ ACTS event staff decided that author data collection used in the symposium program could have been done more efficiently. A new form has been developed using REDCap that will collect and store this information in a more effective manner.

Conclusion: The metrics from the first 'NJ ACTS Translational Medicine and Science Symposium' will have a powerful impact on how future events are planned. New tactics will be implemented to enhance the event.

