



## **spARO Meeting Minutes**

Tuesday, May 21, 2024

4:00-5:00 PM ET

The group discussed upcoming plans for spARO sessions, including launching online interactive sessions featuring speakers from different labs. These sessions will allow attendees to ask questions and discuss tool use and problem-solving in research. The committee agreed that these sessions would offer a diverse perspective.

Updates were given based on recent ARO committee meetings. The Program Committee met. Symposium and special session proposals were reviewed, with a submission deadline set for late June. To evenly distribute the workload, a proposal to split poster sessions between postdocs, residents, and students was considered. The Communications committee also met. Efforts are underway to improve the ARO website, mini-grant program, and Speakers Bureau.

The group discussed the idea of holding two poster blitzes simultaneously in different locations to increase attendance, although concerns were raised about scheduling conflicts. Separate award categories for postdocs and graduate students were confirmed. The group discussed the logistics of judging and suggested having two sets of judges if the blitzes weren't simultaneous.

The group proposed using a Google form to gather suggestions for social offset initiatives from the spARO Steering Committee. Several charity support ideas were proposed, including matching donations, offering registration discounts, and organizing events in partnership with charities. The group also discussed using QR codes for donations in various locations. Promoting these initiatives through emails, flyers, and conference badges was agreed upon.