



GEO 2020 Virtual Symposium: Lessons Learned

18th GEO Programme Board Meeting

Agenda Item 1.5

Videoconference

1-3 September 2020

**GEO Symposium 2020
Subgroup**

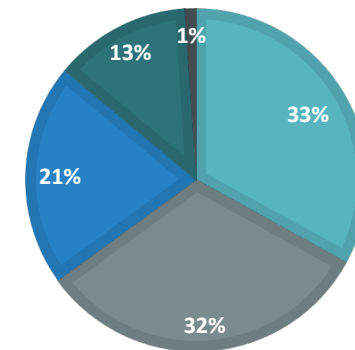
The Data

- Three datasets analyzed on Symposium participation/registration
- Unique pre-registrations = 1,534 (excluding the GEO Secretariat)
 - 1,304 (86%) GEO Members
 - 127 (8%) Participating Organizations
 - 14 (1%) GEO Associates
 - 8 GEO Observers
 - 55 (3.5%) countries or international organizations with no current GEO affiliation
- Live Session Viewers*
 - **1,424** Day One
 - **266** Day Two
 - **~200** Days Three to Five

*In-person Symposia average attendance ~100

REGIONAL DISTRIBUTION OF PRE-REGISTRANTS

■ Europe ■ Americas ■ Asia/Oceania ■ Africa ■ CIS



Cannot explain drop-off in attendance

Key Messages

- Recordings of Live Sessions not viewed often
- Pre-Recorded videos views similar to Live Session participation (9 >100)
- Viewers did not watch pre-recorded videos AND participate in the live sessions
- Too many presentations one right after the other
- Survey Results - Participants
 - Satisfaction rating high
 - Caveats:
 - Not representative of entire GEO community
 - Senior Level attendees might not have filled out survey
 - Those for whom English is not primary language less likely to fill out survey

METADATA

Conclusion: Survey respondents preferred future Symposia combine in-person with remote participation or an all-virtual format; only four respondents preferred only the in-person format

- Feedback from Speakers
 - Speakers preferred to speak live, as this would have felt more natural and the pre-recording took more time and thus represented a larger commitment from them than would an ordinary presentation = “double ask”
 - More opportunities for participants to interact with speakers

Recommendations

- Provide more opportunities for direct interaction amongst speakers/panelists/participants
- Keep videos short (less than 10 minutes) to keep participants interested
- Break up the week into shorter blocks of time
- Consider how to accommodate “virtual breaks”
 - Offer breakout rooms to participants based on topic/theme and language
- Highlight videos post-event on GEO webpage
 - Also make the videos easier to find instead of buried deep down in menus
- **Ask to Programme Board**
 - **Stand up a working group to analyze and assess virtual meeting construct and available technologies**
 - **Approach GIDTT to lead?**
 - **Not just technical so need to consider Capacity Development/etc. to *engage***₄

Programme Board Discussion

Thank You

Communicate and Collaborate with GEO:

