GEO 2020 Virtual Symposium: Lessons Learned

18th GEO Programme Board Meeting
Agenda Item 1.5
Videoconference
1-3 September 2020
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
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

**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
Programme Board Discussion
Thank You

Communicate and Collaborate with GEO: