

Program committee report for Sunday meeting:

2018 Program Committee: Ivy Tso (chair), Joanna Fiszdon (former chair), Ricardo Carrion, Dylan Gee, Robert Krueger, Renee Thompson, Monika Waszczuk.

- Poster Session II: All comments were positive about the move from Sunday to Friday. We provided snacks (not dinner) before the Friday poster session, and it seemed to work out fine.
- Sunday workshops: Happening concurrently with the Sunday Board Meeting. Each session will ask attendees to sign in to collect data on numbers of actual attendance vs. sign up.
- Mentorship program:
 - Received overwhelmingly positive comments from both mentors and mentees.
- Oral paper time: Each paper was allotted 10 mins + 2 mins for Q&A. Time was very tight for the Friday and Saturday sessions, but moderators were able to collect slides from speakers in advance and enforce time limits during talks. Most speakers were cooperative. Both sessions finished on time. I received multiple positive feedback on the shorter paper time.
- Symposium length:
 - Last year's program chair suggested that shorter (e.g., 75 mins) sessions may free up space for additional programming. This year we experimented this idea. We put in the Call for Abstracts that symposia can be 75-90 mins. All symposia sessions were 90 mins and triple-track, except one that was 75 mins but dual track. Acceptance notifications sent to symposia chairs and presenters included instructions asking the chairs to check the program to find out much time their symposia are allotted before deciding the length of each presentation in their symposia. While this shorter time worked just fine for one of the two symposia scheduled in the 75-min slot, the chair of the other symposium informed me that they did not realize the shorter time until 2 weeks before the conference. To avoid misunderstanding in the future, I would recommend all symposia slots be 90 mins as it appears that not everyone would read carefully or follow all instructions sent in email.
- Venue size: The schizophrenia symposia/paper sessions that took place in the large conference room consistently had 140-160 attendees. The symposia that took place in the smaller rooms (capacity 120) were overflowing (10-20) on Friday.
- 15-minute breaks:
 - It worked out fine for the most part, but there were occasions that it was too short because the last session overran.
 - Last year's program chair reported that people trickled in after start of session. This same problem occurred, especially for the Invited Addresses in the morning and the sessions right after lunch. I had to shout and ask people to go in on many occasions. Next year the program chair should work with local hosts/hotel to arrange some sort of "imminent session start" reminder (chime, light flicker).