

# Frequently Asked Questions about Table Talk Discussions

By Pamela Reis, CNM, PhD, NNP-NC, ACNM Program Committee Member

**What is a Table Talk discussion?** Table Talk discussions are oral presentations with participants seated around a table. The use of this format allows for a more informal venue that is interactive and flexible in design. Table Talk discussions allow for colleagues with similar interests to give and receive targeted feedback.

**How will the room be set up for the Table Talk discussion?** For each Table Talk session there will be room for 10 people at the table, including the speaker. If you plan to attend a Table Talk session, be sure to arrive early to be seated at the table of your chosen topic and presenter.

**What will the format be like?** Each Table Talk session will be 60 minutes long. This time will be divided between 2 to 3 presenters, allowing for a 5-10 minute question period. There will be a moderator present at each Table Talk session to make sure presenters begin and end their presentations on time. Participants attending Table Talk discussions will rotate between presentations.

**What about audiovisuals?** Table Talk discussions are typically held without audiovisual aids, however if you have a presentation that you wish to display on your laptop or tablet at your table and without the use of a projector that will be fine. Some presenters bring handouts for their participants. Be sure to include your contact information on your handouts.

**If selected to participate in a Table Talk discussion, how should I prepare for my presentation?** One of the nice things about Table Talk discussions are that they are informal and do not require that you follow any specific format. Some presenters give a brief overview of their topic and ask participants to brainstorm or give feedback about their work and discuss possible new directions. Other presenters use a traditional lecture followed by questions structure.

Be sure to arrive early for your presentation to set up at your table and troubleshoot any issues that may arise with the space assigned to your presentation.

**Where can I learn more about Table Talk discussions?** There are several sites that discuss and describe roundtable discussions – this format is similar to Table Talk presentations. The [American Evaluation Association](#) website contains an excellent discussion of the roundtable format. Also, check out guidelines provided by the [American Pediatric Surgical Nurses Association](#), [Frontline Specialists](#) and the [Association for the Study of Higher Education](#).

**Who can I contact if I have questions about the Table Talk format?** You may contact Letitia Sullivan, Chair of the ACNM Program Committee at [lscnm@gmail.com](mailto:lscnm@gmail.com) with questions.