

PRBB Intervals Course Proposal

Course Title

Becoming a scientific speaker – key skills for success. An intensive workshop.

Proposed date(s):

One day: September 27th 2018

9.15 – 5.45 pm (includes 1 hour lunch break)

Course Language: English

Course Leader(s) and very brief summary of relevant qualifications and experience

Elinor Thompson trained originally as a medical doctor and specialized in public health. Following several years working in the UK National Health Service she developed a freelance career and has been offering professional development for scientists and health professionals for 18 years. She is co-founder and director of the PRBB Intervals programme.

Rationale for course (why is this course of interest for the PRBB staff?)

Oral communication of research to multi-disciplinary groups of scientists and health professionals is a constant demand of today's investigators. Compelling and confident speaking in front of a critical audience is a challenging skill for a scientist to acquire. Once acquired though, not only do career doors open, but science itself is strengthened. This course provides training in all key skills required to give a successful presentation.

Course aim – general

In this intensive workshop we will address all aspects of preparing and performing a scientific presentation in front of an audience of peers in multi-disciplinary scientific contexts.

Specific learning outcomes (what new skills, knowledge &/or attitudes will participants take away from the course?)

Participants will:

- *Learn an ordered approach to planning and developing their presentations,*
- *Develop self-awareness of their strengths and weaknesses,*
- *Increase their confidence in handling the whole process of presenting science*
- *Practise presenting and receive feedback*
- *Practise critiquing others' presentations to enable continued learning after the course.*

Course contents (outline of topics to be covered)

Why communicate science?

Challenges of presenting

Purpose of the presentation

Engaging the audience

Organising and structuring content

Visual aids

Performance and critique

Training methods

*Use of own material as core – participants bring pre-prepared presentation
Plenary, pair and group discussion, exercises and role play
Practice of final presentation with video-recording and critique.*

Target group in PRBB (Senior scientists, postdocs, predocs, management/admin staff, all residents)

Anyone who has to present scientific research or clinical material to multi-disciplinary audiences of peers

*NB: this is an intensive short course based on the longer course **Say it so it stays**.*

Number of participants (maximum) 9

Total course hours (Please specify: direct training with instructor present and required self-study)

Note: only the direct training hours will be included in the post-course certificate.

Number of hours of class time: 7.5 hrs (plus one hour lunch).

Number of hours of self-study: time necessary to prepare a 5-minute presentation before workshop

Distribution of course (hours/days)

1 day with coffee and lunch breaks. Attendance at the whole course is essential.

Pre-course preparation and/or between sessions?

Before the course, participants should prepare a 5 minute presentation. Full instructions will be sent to all confirmed participants.

They should send the following to Intervals to arrive at least 3 working days before the course starts.

- i) Document copy of slides – 9 slides to a page*
- ii) Short descriptive abstract covering talk content – max 150 words.*

Participants must have an advanced communicative level of English.

Material participants need to bring (laptops, etc...)

Pre-prepared presentation. Laptop.

Relevant background reading/ audiovisual/websites or other materials

Storytelling techniques from an expert: https://www.ted.com/talks/j_j_abrams_mystery_box?language=en