

PRBB Intervals Course Proposal

1. Course Title

Write it clearly: fundamentals of effective scientific writing

2. Proposed date(s)

2pm – 5pm, January 30th, and February 1st, 6th and 8th 2018

3. Course Language

English

4. Course Leader(s) and very brief summary of relevant qualifications and experience (no more than 2 lines for each trainer)

Carolyn Newey is an author's editor, trainer and consultant who edits biomedical texts in close collaboration with scientists and physicians in Barcelona.

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

Clear writing plays a vital role in getting a paper published in international peer-reviewed journals. This 12-hour course is designed to help non-native English speakers present their data effectively and increase the likelihood of publication. The course will focus mainly on writing original research papers but will also address other genres of formal scientific communication.

6. Course aim – general

The central aim of this course is to create awareness of the elements of scientific writing that enable rapid communication between the writer and the reader.

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

On this course participants will

- Become familiar with the structure and elements of an IMRaD paper
- Acquire planning strategies for writing an article effectively and efficiently
- Develop awareness of common mistakes in research articles
- Apply techniques to make writing clear, concise and cohesive in sentences and paragraphs
- Learn about ethical publication and how to deal with the peer review process

8. Course contents (outline of topics to be covered)

- The stages of the writing process
- The IMRaD structure of scientific papers
- Developing a clear storyline
- The use of plain English: a close look at paragraphs, sentences, and words

9. Training methods

This is an interactive course where participants learn through a series of steps broken down into multiple practical examples and tasks. The course has a flexible format and participants have the opportunity to discuss specific difficulties and problems as they arise.

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

This course is for people who are starting out in writing papers and also for those who have already published papers but would like to update and hone their writing skills. A high level of English is recommended.

11. Number of participants (maximum)

15

12. 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: 12

Number of hours of self-study: 3

Total number of course hours: 15

13. Distribution of course (hours/days)

Four 3-hour sessions

14. Pre-course preparation and/or between sessions?

There will be short assignments to do at home after each session.

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

Participants need to bring paper copies of two recent original studies (IMRaD papers) in their field (not review articles). These papers should preferably be from high-impact journals and should be texts that the participant enjoyed reading.

16. Relevant background reading/ audiovisual/websites or other materials

Recommended reading:

Cargill, M. and O'Connor, P., 2013. *Writing scientific research articles: strategy and steps*. John Wiley & Sons.

Greene, A.E., 2013. *Writing science in plain English*. University of Chicago Press.

Swales, J.M. and Feak, C.B., 2004. *Academic writing for graduate students: Essential tasks and skills* (Vol. 1). University of Michigan Press.

<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/>