

PRBB Intervals Course Proposal

Course Title

The craft of the scientific research article

Proposed date(s)

9:30am – 12:30 pm, Monday February 26, March 5, 12 and 19, 2018

Course Language

English

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

Susan Frekko is an authors' editor, translator and trainer who helps scientists publish their research in English. Susan holds a Ph.D. in linguistic anthropology and a Certificate in Teaching English as a Foreign Language to Adults. She has published her own research in indexed journals since 2009.

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

New researchers have to make the leap from consuming scientific knowledge to producing it. But having good ideas and good results isn't enough. In order to successfully place their articles in international journals, scientists also need to learn the craft of writing research articles.

Course aim - general

This course aims to familiarize participants with the process of writing a scientific article for publication in English and provide them with tools for improving the quality of their writing so that they can achieve their publishing goals.

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

Participants will:

- Learn the IMRaD structure
- Acquire planning strategies for writing an article effectively and efficiently
- Identify and correct common structural mistakes in research articles
- Apply techniques to make writing clear, concise and cohesive, at the level of the sentence and the paragraph
- Acquire techniques for time management
- Review guidelines for ethical publication
- Learn what to expect from the journal review process

Course contents (outline of topics to be covered)

- IMRaD structure and process

- A research article is a story
- Clarity, conciseness and cohesiveness
- Writing challenges and time management tools

Training methods

The sessions will be highly practical and interactive and will include group discussion; peer feedback; and individual, pair and small-group work. Participants will practice both critical reading and scientific writing.

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

The course is for predocs who have little or no experience in writing articles for international journals.

Number of participants (maximum)

15

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

Distribution of course (hours/days)

Four 3-hour sessions

Pre-course preparation and/or between sessions?

There will be some short writing assignments to do at home.

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

To each session, participants need to bring paper copies of at least **two recent original studies** in their field (not review articles). These papers should be from a high-impact journal in which they would like to publish (two papers from the same journal). They should also be texts that the participant enjoyed reading. A **laptop** with internet connection is necessary for sessions 2, 3 and 4.

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.

Hofmann, A.H., 2014. *Scientific writing and communication: papers, proposals, and presentations*. Oxford University Press.

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