

PRBB Intervals Course Proposal

1. Course Title

“10 keys to creating great visual aids for scientific presentations”

2. Proposed date(s)

17th April 2018, 14:00 – 18:00

3. Course Language

English

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

Jaume Fatjó

Doctor in veterinary medicine. Assistant Professor of Psychiatry (UAB). Over the past 15 years he has delivered scientific and continuing education lectures, courses and seminars on animal behaviour in 12 countries.

5. General description of the course (relevance and context for the PRBB)

Improving communication skills is becoming a burning topic for most research groups.

Communicating science could be challenging particularly in two situations:

- When there is a time limit, as it happens in most scientific meetings.
- When the audience is not specialized in one particular topic.

Visual presentations can be a very valuable tool in communicating science. Nevertheless, data coming from scientific studies needs to be processed to be time effective as well as visually attractive.

6. Course Aim

The aim of the course is to provide attendants with practical knowledge to improve their skills in creating effective scientific visual presentations.

7. Learning objectives (what new skills, knowledge &/or attitudes will participants go away from the course with?)

Main learning objectives:

- To identify the key aspects of a good scientific visual presentation.
- To be able to identify and to correct the most common pitfalls and mistakes in creating visual aids for scientific presentations.

8. Training methods

Attendants will be presented with a series of 10 examples of the most common mistakes in developing slides for scientific presentations.

Attendants will work in small groups to come up with a solution for each individual challenge, followed by a group discussion.

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

All PRBB members are welcome.

10. Number of participants (maximum)

12

11. Total course hours (Please specify: a) direct training with instructor present b) required self-study.

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

4 hours

12. Distribution of course (hours/days)

One session of 4 hours.

13. Course programme (outline of topics to be covered)

Topics covered in the practical situations/challenges include but are not restricted to the following:

- Dealing with complex graphics/figures.
- Choosing the right colour palette.
- Slide composition and overall design.
- Reducing the amount of text.
- Reducing the number of slides.
- Adding different levels of information complexity.
- Understanding how visual aids fit into your presentation.

14. Pre-course preparation (what preparation should participants do before the course – reading, online study, prepare ideas etc?)

Participants should have a basic understanding of at least one of the following tools:

- Microsoft PowerPoint.
- Apple KeyNote.

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

- One laptop per participant.
- All laptops should have either PowerPoint or Keynote installed.
- Two weeks before the course, participants should send samples of slides from their work that they would like to improve or they are facing difficulties with.

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

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