

PRBB Intervals Course Proposal

1. Course Title

10 keys to creating great visual aids for scientific presentations - Online course

2. Proposed date(s): 30th November and 14th December

3. Course Language

English

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

Jaume Fatjó is a 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 19 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

- Part 1 (30th Nov: 10:00 – 11:30): participants will attend a webinar on the 10 fundamental tips to develop a good presentation. Each point will be illustrated with practical examples.

- Part 2 (to be done between online sessions): After Part 1 attendants will be asked to select some slides from their own presentations, which they think could be improved following the tips discussed in Part 1.

Attendants will be asked to submit by Nov 9th a PowerPoint/Keynote file containing the initial and final version of the selected slides. The document could include comments on issues they could not address.

- Part 3 (14th Dec: 10:00 – 13:00): Webinar - feedback and group discussion on the progress made and difficulties found.

Please note:

- Participants have to commit to attend both online sessions and do and send the task between sessions.
- Participants need to have a presentation/slides to work on during the course and be prepared to share them with the rest of the group.

- 9. Target group in PRBB (Senior scientists, postdocs, predocs, management/admin staff, all residents)**
All PRBB
- 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.
4.5 hours
- 12. Distribution of course (hours/days)**
Part 1: 1.5-hour webinar.
Part 2: Participants will have two weeks to send a revised version of the slides
Part 3: 3-hour webinar.
- 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: --**