

PRBB Intervals Course Proposal

Course Title *The science of the unexpected: improvisation for scientists*

Proposed date(s) 3rd July 2018

Course Language English

Course Leader(s) and very brief summary of relevant qualifications and experience (no more than 2 lines for each trainer) Brian McCarthy. Brian has been working as a trainer and facilitator in the areas of communication, leadership and creativity for the last 8 years. Previously he was a professional theatre director and acting teacher based in Dublin, Ireland.

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

Scientists spend much of their time working on the minute details of their work and speaking to colleagues who speak “the same language”. Improvisation can teach scientists to explain their work in multiple vivid ways, thus helping both their audience and the scientist themselves better understand and appreciate their work. It is also extremely useful for effectively responding to unplanned public speaking challenges such as answering questions or making impromptu talks.

Course aim – general

Get out of your head and into your whole body and more be observant of others

Bring your personality and passion into your scientific work

Trust your intuition

Achieve greater clarity and vividness when explaining science

Know how to respond to unplanned public speaking challenges such as answering questions or making impromptu talks.

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

Awareness of personal communication style

Awareness of other people’s differing communication styles

A more creative and intuitive approach to science and scientific communication

Impactful presentations and explanations of complex scientific work

Have a framework to respond to unexpected public speaking demands

Course contents (outline of topics to be covered)

Bring science to life for yourself and others

Using your most powerful communication tool – your body

Creativity is opening your eyes, not closing them and retreating into your mind.

Overcoming fear and inhibitions

Training methods

Improvisation exercises in pairs and in a group

Active listening exercises

Body language exercises – mime and role playing

Individual Presentations

Contrast “before” and “after” presentations

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

Everybody at PRBB, cross-disciplinary

Number of participants (maximum) 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: 4

Number of hours of self-study: 0

Total number of course hours: 4

Distribution of course (hours/days): 4 hours, from 14h -18h

Pre-course preparation and/or between sessions? *Participants should come with a short (2 minute) presentation introducing their work recorded on video.*

Material participants need to bring (laptops, etc...) Nothing

Relevant background reading/ audiovisual/websites or other materials --