

PRBB Intervals Course Proposal

1. Course Title

Say it so it stays: oral presentation skills training for scientists

2. Proposed date(s)

4th, 8th & 9th July:

- 4 July: 9:30 – 18:00
- 8th July: 9:30 – 13:30
- 9th July: 14:00 – 18:00

3. Course Language

English - an advanced level of conversational English is essential.

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

Elinor Thompson is a public health specialist and educator, who trained originally as a medical doctor. She co-founded the PRBB Intervals programme and has been running professional training for scientists for over a decade.

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

An excellent scientific presentation is a harmonious whole that combines the diverse skills of critical thinking, empathic story-telling and theatre performance. Bringing together such diverse qualities into a harmonious whole is no small challenge. This course uses a unique methodology that helps participants master the holistic process of planning, crafting and performing a great presentation.

6. Course Aims

To improve scientists' effectiveness and confidence when presenting their science to their peers. To equip participants with key tools that will enable them to continue growing their public speaking skills throughout their lives.

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

Participants will:

- Learn what makes a science presentation really effective.
- Develop their awareness of audience interest.
- Apply critical thinking skills to ensure coherence and flow of their central idea.
- Understand how to select and shape content to match communicative aim.
- Improve talk structure to help skillful delivery.
- Increase awareness of non-verbal communication and how to improve vocal skills.
- Enhance self-awareness of performance skills and develop a learning plan for future development.

- Realise the breadth and scope of the challenge of brilliant scientific speaking and understand the steps required to hone their mastery.

8. Training methods

Using a unique **six threads approach**, participants will learn and practise all aspects of preparing and delivering a scientific presentation. The course is very interactive and participants will have many opportunities to speak in public and increase their critical awareness of effective presentation skills. Everyone should prepare a short presentation prior to the course, to work on during the workshop. Participants' presentations will be filmed and each participant will receive a copy of their videos.

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

All scientists who wish to improve their presentation skills.

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.

a) 15 hours total b) 3-4 hours to work on presentation before and between sessions.

12. Distribution of course (hours/days)

1 day and 2 half-day sessions.

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

Session 1: Introductions, current skills, understanding audience.

Purpose, story-telling, structure.

Session 3: Visual aids, performance skills – voice and body language.

Session 4: Bringing it all together.

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

Before the course, participants should prepare a short, 5 minute (max) presentation, with powerpoint slides or similar. The presentation can be on any topic related to the participant's scientific work, and should be prepared with the intention of presenting to scientists from *a variety of biomedical fields*.

Since this presentation will form the focus of each participant's work during the workshop it is best to choose a topic that you are either currently working on, or that is still very fresh in your mind.

15. Material participants need to bring (laptops, etc...) A laptop will be useful but not absolutely essential, for the second day's session.

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

Will be provided with the course materials.