

## PRBB Intervals Course Proposal

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### **Course Title**

Scientifically speaking - a master class in peer-to-peer presenting for scientists

### **Proposed date(s)**

9th, 10th, 11th & 17th October 2017. All days from 14:00 – 18:00

### **Course Language**

English

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

Elinor Thompson is a trainer, education consultant and physician who runs professional training events for scientists & clinicians. She is director-designer of an innovative multi-disciplinary education programme, known as the *Intervals Programme*, at the Barcelona Biomedical Research Park (PRBB) and is also an Invited Professor in the Department of Experimental and Health Sciences, Pompeu Fabra University, Barcelona.

### **General description of the course (relevance and context for the PRBB)**

It is a harsh but all too real fact that many scientists fail to do justice to their research when presenting orally to their peers. Scientific audiences today are multi-disciplinary and many scientists underestimate the difficulty of creating interest for experts in their field while simultaneously engaging those less familiar with the topic. And yet, compelling and confident speaking in front of a critical audience is arguably one of the most important professional skills a scientist must develop. Once acquired, not only do career doors open but science itself is strengthened.

### **Course Aim**

This advanced course will give scientists who already have some experience of presenting, an opportunity to take their skills to a new level, increasing both their versatility and competence as public speakers.

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

Participants will refresh current knowledge, hone skills, develop versatility for dealing with different situations and audiences, learn strategies for coping with the unexpected and develop their self-awareness of areas for improvement. Time will be spent honing competence in planning and organising complex material into a clear and engaging format, prior to focusing on enhancing performance skills.

### **Training methods**

Sessions will be interactive and will include group and individual exercises, videotaping and review, peer-to-peer critiques and feedback.

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

This course is designed as a follow-on to the general course *Say it so it stays – oral presentation skills for scientists* - so previous participants of that course will be given priority. Other scientists or clinicians who already have some experience of presenting at international congresses are also eligible: please summarise this experience in the registration form.

**Number of participants (maximum):** 10

**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) 16 hours b) 4-6 hours- for pre-course preparation and tasks between sessions

**Distribution of course (hours/days)**

4 sessions, 4h each

**Course programme (outline of topics to be covered)**

Needs assessment, *Science Weavers* 6 thread approach©, communicative clarity, coherence, versatility, productive practice, tackling questions, vocal variety, talk performance.

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

Participants should prepare a 10 minute presentation on any topic related to their scientific work. They should bring this presentation to the first day of the workshop, together with two paper copies of their slides printed in note form (4 or 6 slides to a page). Between sessions, participants will be asked to apply learning to their prepared talk and to prepare a number of short tasks for the next session.

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

Laptops

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

1. Please watch this TED talk: [https://www.ted.com/talks/j\\_j\\_abrams\\_mystery\\_box](https://www.ted.com/talks/j_j_abrams_mystery_box)
2. Participants who have attended the *Science Weavers* general course on presenting skills, *Say it so it stays* may find it useful to revise their notes. Those who have not attended this course will be sent a summary of the course notes for study beforehand.