



Scientific Soft Skills Building Programme

Designed for Early Stage Research Scientists
Working in Medicine and the Life Sciences

- Scientific Presentation
 - Presenting with Confidence
 - Designing and Presenting Posters
- Scientific Writing
 - Scientific Writing
 - Getting Funded
- Trainer's Profile
- Training Approach
- Recommendations



Presenting with Confidence

The Presenting with Confidence Workshop helps you to improve your PowerPoint presentation performance by learning how to optimally design and professionally deliver your talk. In the safety of the training environment, we will assess the content and structure of your own talk as well as your body language and overall delivery style.

Together we will analyse your slides and develop strategies to optimally explain them. Special emphasis will also be placed on how to avoid or cope with common problems associated with the question and answer session. Finally, you will also learn how to enhance your delivery style and establish strong rapport, thereby ensuring professional and confident presentation of your talk and an enjoyable and informative experience for your audience.

The Presenting with Confidence Workshop is ideal for early stage research scientists with little or no presentation experience.

Workshop content

- Preparing and structuring a talk that the audience will understand
- Optimizing your slide design
- Explaining your slides effectively
- Identifying and overcoming common language errors and pronunciation problems
- Performing well in the question and answer session
- Generating and maintaining rapport with your audience

By the end of this workshop, you will be able to:

- Better plan and structure your talk
- Design more effective, visually attractive slides
- Better explain your slides
- Avoid typical language errors and pronunciation problems
- Deliver your talk more professionally and confidently



Designing and Presenting Posters

Knowing how to design a well-structured, visually attractive poster is a must for every researcher. However, due to insufficient know-how and inexperience, you may fail to get your message across and also not present your poster optimally. To overcome these problems, the Designing and Presenting Posters Workshop focuses on the key dos and don'ts of strong poster design using your own poster as material. In addition, you will be coached on how to effectively make your key points and convey your message as well as on how to make the best impression on interested parties. This workshop will therefore enable you not only to design and present a poster competently but also to represent yourself and your Institute more professionally.

The Designing and Presenting Posters Workshop is ideal for early stage research scientists with no or little poster designing and presenting experience.

Workshop content

- Exploring the dos and don'ts of strong poster design
- Deciding on content
- Selecting the best layout
- Designing effective illustrations
- Using words specifically and sparingly
- Using colour for effect
- Optimizing your presentation of the poster
- Making the most of attending a scientific meeting

By the end of this workshop, you will be able to:

- Produce a well-structured, visually attractive poster
- Convey your message and other key information effectively
- Present your poster with confidence
- Optimize your time spent at a scientific meeting
- Represent yourself and your Institute more professionally



Scientific Writing

Do you have data to publish, but keep putting off writing that paper because you don't know where to begin? The Scientific Writing Workshop shows you how to organize, structure and write your research papers effectively and efficiently. How to get started and keep going as well as what goes where and in which tense will be the starting point of this workshop. We will also review key scientific

sentence structures as well as strategies to keep your text concise and precise. Issues such as how to create flow and generate the correct level of emphasis will also be discussed. Together we will explore how to make scientific writing understandable and readable and begin the process of integrating these factors into your own scientific writing style. Finally, we will formulate a plan on how you can improve your scientific vocabulary and writing style for future writing tasks.

The Scientific Writing Workshop is ideal for non-native English-speaking early stage research scientists with little or no paper writing experience.

Workshop content

- Preparing for the writing process
- Structuring your research papers
- Using key scientific sentence structures
- Writing concise and precise sentences
- Creating flow and strong transition between ideas
- Achieving emphasis of your key points
- Improving your punctuation
- Using American versus British English
- Enhancing your editing skills

4

By the end of this workshop, you will be able to:

- Better organize, structure and write your research papers
- Write a more concise and precise flowing text
- Better emphasize key information and generate the right level of impact
- Begin to identify and correct writing weaknesses and typical language errors
- Implement strategies for future improvement of your scientific vocabulary and writing style



Getting Funded

Do you want to get your own research fellowship but don't know how to get started? The Getting Funded Workshop addresses the needs of PhD students wanting to apply for funding for their first postdoctoral position. Together we will explore what makes a research idea fundable and a research proposal reviewer friendly.

Strategies on how best to present your research idea and yourself will be discussed. You will also be given the tools and the vocabulary to better write your research plan as well as sections not encountered at the paper writing stage, such as justifying choice of lab, projecting your future career aims and promoting yourself as the ideal researcher for the job. Finally, grant scouting information and tips will be provided about major funding sources both in Europe and the USA.

The Getting Funded Workshop is ideal for third year non-native English-speaking PhD students wanting to secure their own research funding for their first postdoctoral position. We recommend that those wanting to participate in this demanding writing workshop should have attended the Writing Scientific Papers Workshop or have proof of strong scientific writing ability.

Workshop content

- Identifying suitable funding sources
- Understanding what makes a research idea fundable
- Preparing and writing an effective reviewer-friendly research proposal
- Getting to grips with the 'non-scientific' sections
- Increasing your word power
- Avoiding common pitfalls associated with individual fellowships

5

By the end of this workshop, you will be able to:

- More easily identify suitable funding sources
- Better understand what is involved in successful funding acquisition
- Produce an effective reviewer-friendly individual fellowship
- Generate content especially for the 'non-scientific' parts
- Write with more impact and word power



Trainer's Profile

Ruth Willmott is a scientific text consultant and soft skills trainer.

She was born in England and holds a BSc in molecular biology and biochemistry (Durham, UK) and a PhD in molecular genetics (Bristol, UK). After being awarded a Marie Curie fellowship, she moved to Germany where she first worked at the Max Planck Institute for Plant Breeding (Cologne) and then at the RWTH (Aachen). Being ideally positioned to understand and meet the communication needs of non-native English-speaking research scientists, she set up BioScript International in 1998.

Since then, she has helped hundreds of research scientists achieve their publication and grant acquisition goals. In addition, she has also become an authority on scientific soft skills training especially for those participating in structured PhD training programmes such as International Graduate Schools.

Ruth Willmott is an active member of the European Association of Science Editors (EASE), EuroScience and the Marie Curie Fellowship Association (MCFA).

She currently resides in Vienna, Austria.



Workshop Training Approach

All workshops are devised and individualized to achieve maximum learning in the minimum amount of time, while still promoting soft skills retention. As we know that the individualized approach is the key to rapid learning, our workshops incorporate material supplied by the participants and focus on solving each individual's problems and addressing their needs. This hands-on and highly interactive approach therefore enables the participants to generate ideas and find solutions for their own work, allowing them to better relate what they have learnt in the workshop to their own research activities.

To aid the consolidation process, participants receive a copy of the pertaining BioScript International's Scientific Soft Skills Building Programme's handout containing a comprehensive summary of material covered in the workshop.

All training is done in small groups (maximum 12) and takes between 1.5 to 3.0 days depending on the group's aims and needs.



Recommendations

What the participants say:

■ Scientific Presentation

Discussing what I thought before was the best presentation I could give improved its level substantially. I learnt not only how to give a presentation properly,

but also the reasons behind the dos and don'ts.

MD/PhD Program, IZKF, Rudolf Virchow Center, Würzburg

I really improved my level of English as well as presentation technique. Two highly productive and fun days!

Research Training Group 592, 'Lymphozyten: Differenzierung, Aktivierung und Deviation', Erlangen

First of all, I want to say thank you Ruth for the great training and motivation. Keep the workshop just as it is; it is the perfect way to learn!

Research Training Group 767, 'Transcriptional control in developmental processes', Marburg

I have to thank you a thousand times for your helpful tips and your brilliant advice from your Presenting and Designing Posters Workshop. Considering those, or at least most of them, I won the Poster Prize at a recent meeting in Göttingen, along with a free one year subscription to Nature and an Ipod!

Research Training Group 1048, 'Molecular basis of organ development in vertebrates', Würzburg

■ Scientific Writing

The scientific writing workshop was just great, and I really benefited from it. Now I feel much more confident in preparing a manuscript, since I have the structural background to know how to begin and how to proceed with writing. I also find the appendices in the handout (lists with phrases to avoid, transitional words...) very very helpful!

International Max Planck Research School (IMPRS), MPI for Molecular and Cellular Life Sciences, Martinsried/Munich

The hands-on exercises using our texts combined with the expert guidance from Ruth gave me great insight into how to identify and correct weaknesses in my own writing. Since participating in this scientific writing workshop I have not only found it easier to get started, but also to get finished!

Institute for Alpine Environment, EURAC, Bozen

This was the best workshop we ever had!

International Postgraduate Program (IPP) Biomedical Sciences, University of Ulm Medical Faculty, Ulm



One actually wants to write a paper after this workshop!

Research Training Group 745, 'Mukosale Erreger-Wirt-Interaktionen', Hanover

**The getting funded training really hit the spot!
Getting the reviewer on your side, generating the right sort of impact to better promote yourself and your science, strategies for writing all of that non-scientific stuff.
A must for anyone thinking to write their own individual fellowship.**

International Postgraduate Program (IPP) Molecular Medicine,
University of Cologne, Cologne

What the coordinators say:

Working with Ruth is always a pleasure. The communication with her beforehand is easy and she responds immediately and is well organised. Highly professional and very efficient and effective training.

Coordinator, FMV, Rostock

After participating in the training, all students delivered outstanding presentations with an astonishing degree of professionalism. All of them had significantly improved their presentation techniques on many levels. You have provided excellent training to our students - and they really enjoyed it!

Coordinator, International Graduate School in Genetics and Functional Genomics,
University of Cologne, Cologne

For reasons of confidentiality, individual clients cannot be named.

If you feel that you or your group would benefit from participating in BioScript International's Scientific Soft Skills Building Programme, then please feel free to contact us to discuss your scientific soft skills aims and needs or visit www.bioscript.de for further details and dates of the next training opportunities in Vienna.

8

BioScript International

Dr. Ruth Willmott

Bennogasse16/9a
A-1080 Vienna/Wien
Austria/Österreich

Office: +43-(0)1-990 82 33
Mobile: +49-(0)170-475 50 49
E-mail: willmott@bioscript.de

We look forward to working with you in the future!

