

Core Skills For Scientists

Presenting Science

Course Synopsis

Based on a solid understanding of scientists as audience, the course leads the participants to discover that the oral paper is not a “cut & paste” transform of the written paper. Participants also understand how little the written text matters compared to who they are, what they say, and how they visually support their presentation. The course tackles the three greatest obstacles a presenting scientist faces: *fear, an over-technical text-heavy presentation, and a less-knowledgeable-than-expected audience*. Through systematically rooting out what lessens presentation impact, and preparing a live delivery, the presenting scientist acquires confidence in himself, fluidity in speech, and authority when handling questions.

Career opportunities

Good presentation skills speed up career promotion decisions for two reasons:

- 1) Presenting takes a larger part of a scientist’s time as he or she moves up the research ladder.
- 2) Presenting is key to getting funding and project support. A scientist that garners support is often put “on the fast career track.”

Target participants

The course is designed for research managers, researchers and postgraduates who deliver presentations in the course of their work to convince, motivate, inform, seek collaboration, or secure financial support.

Course structure

Module 1: Meeting both audience expectations and presentation goals. Slide redesign.

Module 2: Revving up the audience: from cold start to hot finish.

Module 3: Delivering in front of audience and camera: moving, standing, talking, pointing, observing, listening.

Module 4: Facing the questions: preparing the Q&A session, listening to, evaluating the relevance, and answering ten common kinds of scientific questions.

Mode of assessment

Live skill assessment for each participant based on a seven minute presentation of their paper (recorded on video) and a tough fifteen minute Q&A session. The assessment includes: persona, posture, continuity, coherence, appeal, readability of slides, explanation of graphics, and handling of hostile questions.

Duration

Two and a half days

Number of participants

12 exactly

Class prerequisite

One 6-8 slide Powerpoint presentation corresponding to an trimmed down version of an accepted conference paper

Equipment and facilities

If the training facility does not have a computer lab, each participant is required to bring his own notebook to the course.

This class requires access to an auditorium, amphitheatre or other large room equipped with a PC connected to a projector, as well as a wireless speaker microphone.



Your trainer

Jean-Luc Lebrun, is a seasoned and humorous presenter of advanced technology. He presented Apple Computer’s research labs to audiences world-wide for over ten years and hosted the CyberChat program on Singapore TV. He won multiple presentation awards throughout his career. He teaches scientific presentation skills at the following A-Star research institutes: BII, BTI, CMM, DSI, GIS, I2R, IBN, ICES, IHPC, IME, IMRE, and SIMTECH.*

**Agency for Science, Technology And Research Singapore*