

Core Skills For Scientists

Presenting Science

Course Synopsis

Participants discover that the oral paper is not a “cut & paste” transform of the written paper. They also understand how little 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. The course is based on the book “When the Scientist Presents” (World Scientific Publishing). It is given to each participant.

Career Opportunities

Good presentation skills speed up career promotion 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 who 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.

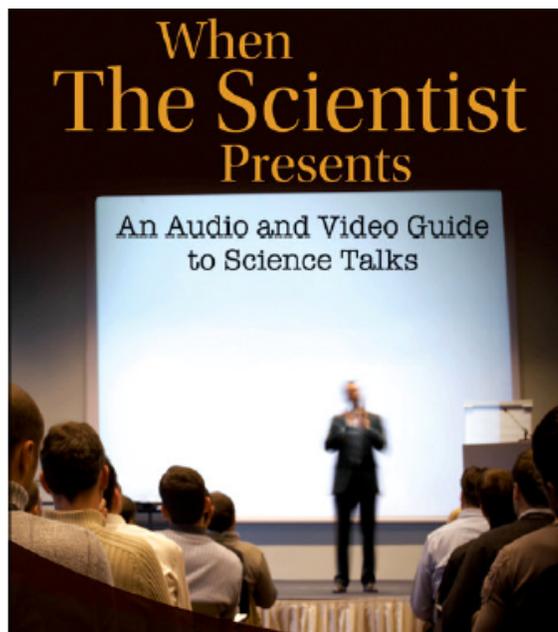
Module 2: Delivering the *elevator pitch* to a decision maker

Module 3: Delivering in front of audience and camera

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

Mode of Assessment

Live skill assessment for each participant based on a three minute elevator pitch without slide support, a seven minute presentation of their paper with slide support, and a tough seven minute Q&A session. The written assessment covers the following aspects: host qualities, fluidity, coherence, appeal, scientific content, readability of slides, intelligibility of speech, scientific impact, and question handling. The Q&A and the oral presentation are recorded on DVD and given to the presenter responsible for that part of the talk.



Duration

Three days

Class prerequisites

A Powerpoint presentation of 6-8 slides equivalent to a trimmed down version of an accepted conference paper. Answers to the eleven PowerPoint exercises sent prior to the class need to be brought to the class on the first day.

Class Size

12 to 24 participants.

Your Trainer

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

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