

PRBB Intervals Course Proposal

Course Title

Introduction to Scientific Publishing & How to Read a Paper

Proposed date(s)

24th April, 2023

Course Language

English

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

[Gavin Lucas \(link\)](#)

Gavin Lucas is a biomedical scientist with more than 13 years of experience in research and scientific publishing, and 14 years of experience as an author's editor, consultant and trainer.

Rationale for course (why is this course of interest for the PRBB staff?)

As scientists, much of what we do is affected by the current model of academic publishing, which has many strengths, as well as some remarkable weakness. The dynamics of this system influence what we read and our success in publishing our work, and it's important for all scientists to be aware of how it works. It's also true that we spend much more of our time reading than we do writing, but we are often quite inefficient in how we gather, store and extract information from the scientific literature.

Course aim - general

The aims of this workshop are to help scientists explore and discuss the current model of academic publishing, and to review good practices for gathering, managing and extracting relevant information from the literature.

Specific learning outcomes (what new skills, knowledge &/or attitudes will participants to take away from the course?)

This joint workshop deals with two key competencies for early stage researchers: understanding the publishing system, and digesting the scientific literature. It will provide new researchers with a solid grounding in how the scientific publishing system works, and will explore the challenges that publishing scientists face, such as peer review and impact metrics. It will then introduce participants to some essential concepts and practical tools for gathering, managing, and extracting evidence from the scientific literature.

Course contents (outline of topics to be covered)

- The publishing process, authorship, and conflicts of interest
- The publishing landscape, open access, and impact metrics
- The peer-review system
- Searching for and managing your literature
- Sections of a paper - finding key information
- How to read a paper – extracting key information

Training methods

This is a highly interactive training workshop with extensive elements of partner work, exercises, group discussion, and a special emphasis on sharing and learning from participants' own expertise and experience.

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

Junior researchers

Number of participants (maximum)

12

Total course hours (Please specify: direct training with instructor present and required self-study)

Note: only the direct training hours will be included in the post-course certificate.

Number of hours of class time: 7

Number of hours of self-study: 1-2

Total number of course hours: 8-9

Distribution of course (hours/days)

One 7h session (in-person)

Pre-course preparation and/or between sessions?

Before the course the trainer will send a simple preparatory task and some reading material.

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

Laptop with internet connection.

Relevant background reading/ audiovisual/websites or other materials

Provided in advance