prbb intervals
Continuing Professional Development Programme
Space for Reflective Learning

PRBB Intervals Course Proposal

Course Title: Rhyme your research: using poetry to problem solve and communicate your science

Proposed date(s) 10th March 2027

Course Language English, but all languages will be encouraged during the writing activities.

Course Leader(s) and very brief summary of relevant qualifications and experience (no more than 2 lines for each trainer)
Sam Illingworth is a professor at Edinburgh Napier University and world-leading expert in science communication and interdisciplinary research.

Rationale for course (why is this course of interest for the PRBB staff?)
To introduce the role that poetry can play in helping to both problem solve in scientific research and to communicate it to diverse audiences.

Course aim – general
This course aims to explore how we might use poetry to help target the creative incubation period and communicate science more effectively both to and with non-scientific audiences.

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

1. Confidence in engaging with poetry as a tool for science communication.
2. How to use poetry to help you develop unique solutions to scientific problems.

Course contents (outline of topics to be covered)
In this fully interactive session, participants will learn how to read, analyze, and write poetry about scientific research. In doing so they will also be equipped to use this medium to help develop problem solving skills that can be directly applied to their research as well as a consideration of how to disseminate and communicate their research to wider, more diverse audiences.

Training methods
Interactive online workshop.

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

Number of participants (maximum) 15

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: 2 hours
Number of hours of self-study: 30 mins (prior to class)
Total number of course hours: 2,5 hours

Distribution of course (hours/days)
One 2-h session

Pre-course preparation and/or between sessions?
Participants will be expected to have read a selection of approximately 6 science poems (which the trainer will share) prior to the session.

Material participants need to bring (laptops, etc…) Writing equipment and an open mind.

Relevant background reading/ audiovisual/websites or other materials None.