DDP module MED6960

Research Skills: Oral presentation

http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/medicine/current/postgraduates/ddp/med6960
Why do an oral presentation?

• All science is presented to peers through talks at conferences or seminars
• Required to present in group/departmental meetings
• Job/fellowship/award panels
• Critical to your development as a research scientist
• Transferable skills
• You are judged on how well you present
First Year Presentations

• Tues 3rd Sept & Tues 10th Sept 2019
• In here - LT3 (F floor)
• 10 min. talk + 5 min. Q&A
• Audience: All 1st Year postgraduate students, supervisors & interested parties
• Encouragement not criticism
• Low stress environment
• Compulsory for all 1st year PGR students
• Formatively assessed
Formative assessment

• Feedback provided by academics
  - Preparation
  - Performance
  - Points for future development

• Consider visual layout, content &
  organization, presentation style &
  communication skills, question handling

• Meet with year tutor &/or PGR lead if
  judged unsatisfactory
Before you start

- Ask for advice from supervisors/mentors on how to approach this
- Attend departmental seminars and lab meetings for inspiration on style and slide content
- Think about how you will pitch your presentation – can you make your work clear to a broad audience?
Generic structure

• Introduction
• Hypothesis and aims
• Methods
• Results
• Summary/conclusion (1 slide)
• Future plans
• Acknowledgements (1 slide)
Time Allocation

• Allow 45 seconds – 1 minute per slide

• 10-12 (max 15) slides for 10 min. talk

• Introduction – sufficient for audience to follow - approx. half of 10 min talk

• Less is often more - don’t have to show everything you have done
Slide Design

• Design the basic slide in the slide master (under ‘View’ tab)

• Use a plain background & basic colour

• Don’t put too much text on a slide

• Use bullet points and/or short statements as prompts

• Turn titles into strong messages
COLOURS

• Avoid “wacky” colour schemes
• Difficult to read
• Looks unprofessional
• Yellow is awful
• Don’t bother using shadows in the text
• Black on white works fine generally
• Some people underline and embolden everything
Background & Fonts

• Avoid fussy backgrounds i.e. pictures
• Use a block font that’s not “fancy”
• Difficult to read
• Looks unprofessional
Use bullet points with short statements. If you try and use loads of text on the slide that spells out everything you want to say it's too much for the audience to read and you lose their attention as they drift off to sleep.

The slide will look very very busy, unprofessional and crowded.

It's far better to use a few short statements that will acts as prompts to help you remember what you are going to say. You may wish to bring these in one at a time using the animation tools so you can control where the audience is looking rather than reading ahead.

If your slide looks as crowded as this then you need a rethink. Remember, lots of short statements is best.
Formatting text

• Use plain (sans serif) font, e.g. Arial or Helvetica

• As a guide; 28 pt for text, 44 pt for title

• Use bullet points and consider animations

• Use visual aids rather than lots of text to help illustrate your point
High throughput screening
Screening approach

- Raise Isl-1 GFP embryos in 96 well plates
- Primary screen of 2000 drugs
  - 24-48hpf @ 2μM in 2% DMSO
- Observe phenotype
- Measure dose-response
- Common mechanism of action?
Formatting images

• Make sure large enough for purpose

• Can the audience read labels clearly?

• Using images from papers or the web – remember copyright rules apply!

• Ensure movies and animations work on the platform you will be using
Formatting diagrams

- Picture can be worth a thousand words
- Excellent for summary or conclusion slide
- Build with animations to simplify
- Use text, images or both
- It takes time to make really good diagrams
- Good slides can be easily modified and reused - worth the effort
Structure and functional organisation of TssH

ClpB

TssH (ClpV)

ClpB: Top view

ClpB: Side view

substrate-processing pore site
Formatting graphs

• Make axes and axis labels are clearly readable

• Include statistics - n values, mean ±SEM etc where appropriate.

• Be consistent with design and format of graphs
  – Try using GraphPad Prism
Graphs – good & bad examples

Effect of SRC inhibition on scarring

- Control
- Untreated
- Enalapril
- Captopril
- NTU281
- NTU283
- NTU285

Scarring Index

- P<0.001
- P<0.05
Conclusion/summary

• What are your main conclusions so far?

• What are the take home messages?

• Relate your findings to your original hypothesis if you can
Future plans

• What are you going to do next?

• Where do you hope your work will lead?

• What do you hope will be the impact of your PhD?
Acknowledgements

- Supervisor
- Sponsor
- Collaborators?
- Who has helped you in the lab?
Preparing for your presentation

Once the slides are ready...

- Write a script (detail level up to you) for each slide
- Practice giving the presentation out loud by yourself (time it) and/or to a friend
- Practice with your supervisors
- **Act on feedback**
- Ask supervisor/peers to ask questions so you can practise answering
- Get to your presentation early to make sure everything is set up right, especially videos!
Try to…. 

• Look confident and smile (even if you are nervous)
• Talk slowly (don’t rush) and clearly (project your voice)
• Use a pointer but only when necessary
• Make eye contact with the audience
• Convey enthusiasm/interest
• Keep an eye on the clock
• Stay calm
• Be yourself
Try not to….

• Read word for word from a sheet/slide
• Talk in jargon/acronyms
• Overuse the pointer
• Assume the audience knows anything about what you are doing
• Speak too fast
• Run around the stage
Common issues

- PowerPoint versions .ppt vs .pptx
- MAC vs. PC issues still exist – esp. QuickTime movies on PCs
- For graphs, use what you know or get training
- GraphPad Prism, Excel, Adobe Illustrator and PowerPoint are usually cross-compatible
- Generally, save pictures as .jpg or .tif
- Import (‘insert’) as pictures, don’t copy and paste
- Ask for advice – other PGRs & Med-IT
Submission

• You will need to submit to Med-PGR up to 1 week before presentation date
• Carol will email details at a later date