



TRANSMIT Course in Scientific Communication - Programme
Maria Shoshan, Karolinska Institute
May 27 - June 3 - June 12, 2019

This is an on-line course based on lectures on the subject within the Medical School and other programs at the Karolinska Institute. The seminars/lectures are conducted using Zoom which allows both group discussions and live-commented Power Point presentations. Written communication is via email.

A pre-course home assignment

This entails writing an abstract using the standard scientific format and style, but on a non-scientific subject such as comparing two sports, two holiday spots etc, in order to focus on structure, style and reasoning rather than actual science. Feedback is given on each text, and shared among the participants.

Monday, May 27, 2019

10 - 11 a.m. Group discussion on the typical mistakes that the assignment texts exemplify, and on what the participants expect from a well-written paper.

11 - 12 noon and 2:30 - 3:30 p.m. Power Point lectures/seminar on features of the Introduction section: presentation of the field, the scientific question, the objective. The importance of motivating the study and pinpointing the problem and the specific aim(s). Materials and Methods: what to include and to what level of detail.

Some typical problems of grammar, syntax, style.

Home assignment: a) to identify such problems in 20 prepared sentences, and to suggest improvements; b) rewrite the pre-course abstract as a project proposal, or construe a new one. Again, the project should be of a non-life-science nature, in order to focus on structure and actual writing. Feedback is given on each text, and shared among the participants.

Monday, June 3, 2019

10 - 11 a.m. Group discussion of the home assignments.

11 - 12 noon. Power Point lecture/seminar on figure layout and legends, style in Results section. Features of the Discussion section; how it provides a summarizing overview of authors' interpretations of results as well as of the field; its function; how to structure it.

Some typical problems of grammar, syntax, style. The principle of being helpful to the reader.

Home assignment: to write an on-going or completed project as a short project proposal (roughly 2 pages). Feedback is given on each text, and shared among the participants.



Wednesday, June 12, 2019

10 - 11 a.m. Group discussion of the home assignment. How does writing a paper differ from writing a project proposal?

11 - 12 noon. Power Point lecture/seminar on the salient points of, and differences between, papers, proposals and popular science for non-professionals.

Home assignment: a) to further develop/rewrite the previous assignment, b) to write a half-page summary of one of your projects for the layman. Feedback is not shared among the participants.

Personal feedback on writing is also offered on any other 2-3 pages of any other scientific text within three months' time.