

WS-5 How to write effectively and navigate peer review

18 September, 12:45 – 14:15

Mary Williams

Overview

You may have heard the expression, “Science isn’t finished until it’s communicated,” and to a certain extent this is true. When we look back at the history of (Western) science, publications provide our evidence and our records. More importantly, publications remain the primary tool through which scientists are evaluated for career advancement and obtaining grant funding. This workshop provides tips and practice for improving your writing skills from a professional writer and editor. The workshop will also look at what happens during the peer-review process, including how to respond to reviewer comments.

What you can expect

- We will talk about how to structure a paper, including tips for how to outline and reverse outline
- We will talk about and practice using paragraphs and topic sentences
- We will talk and practice writing simple, declarative sentences that are clear and concise
- We will conclude by examining a selection of responses to reviewers

Target group

All are welcome to attend, but the material is focused towards people who are at the earlier stage of their scientific writing career.

Speaker

Mary Williams received her PhD in Plant Molecular Biology from Rockefeller University in 1991, followed by a postdoc with Ian Sussex in Berkeley. In 1995 she took a faculty position at Harvey Mudd College, where she taught plant biology and scientific writing for 14 years. In 2009, she relocated to Glasgow, Scotland and took a position as Features Editor of *The Plant Cell* and *Plant Physiology*. She created the Teaching Tools in Plant Biology series and Plant Science Research Weekly blog. She mentors a cohort of volunteer Assistant Features Editors: applications for the *Plant Physiology* Assistant Features Editor program are being accepted through October 15, 2024.

Duration: 90 minutes



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