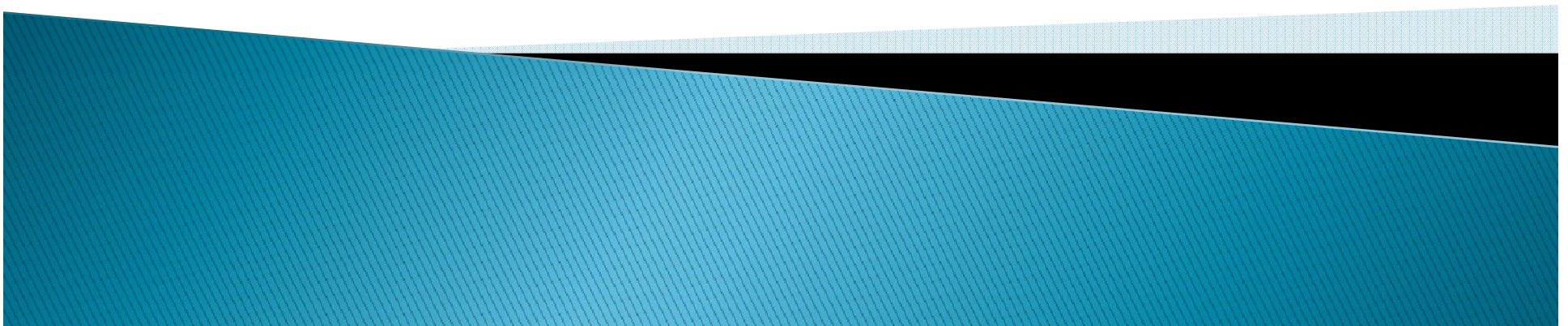
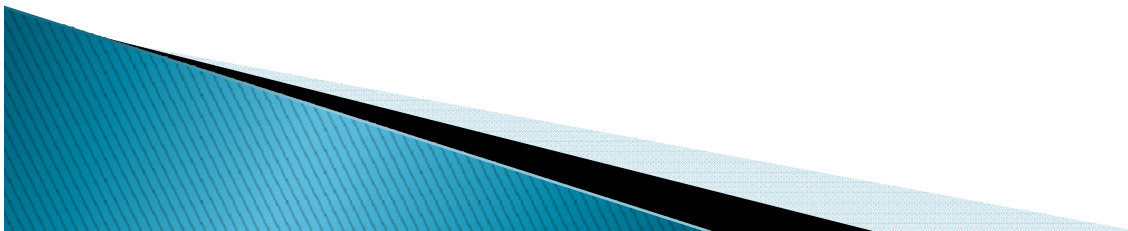


How to Give an Award Winning Presentation

Heather S. Duffy PhD
Director of Research
CARMA Institute
University of Utah

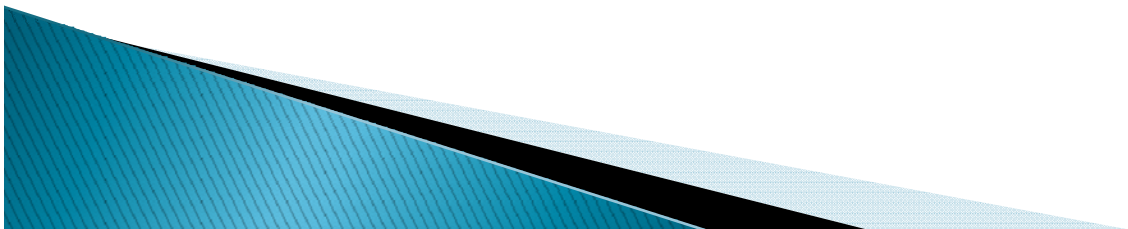


- ▶ I have no disclosures related to the content of this presentation.



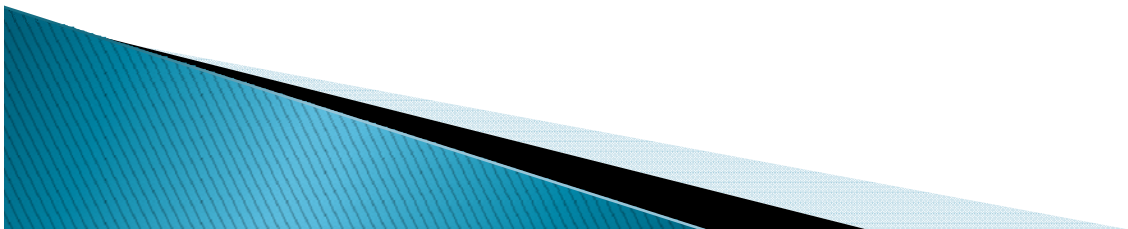
Why Should You Care About Presentation Skills?

1. So you can clearly describe your science.
2. So you can engage the audience so they like your science.
3. So you can impress audience members that may become collaborators, grant reviewers, manuscript reviewers and future bosses.
4. To help you decrease your nervousness at public speaking.



Some Basic Rules

1. Stick to the ONE slide per minute rule (excluding title and acknowledgements).
2. Use clear font styles such as Arial or Times New Roman. Avoid fancy fonts.
3. Use consistent font sizes
4. Minimize wild backgrounds or odd color combinations.
5. Minimize use of animations.



Organizing your talk: Part 1

Know your main message

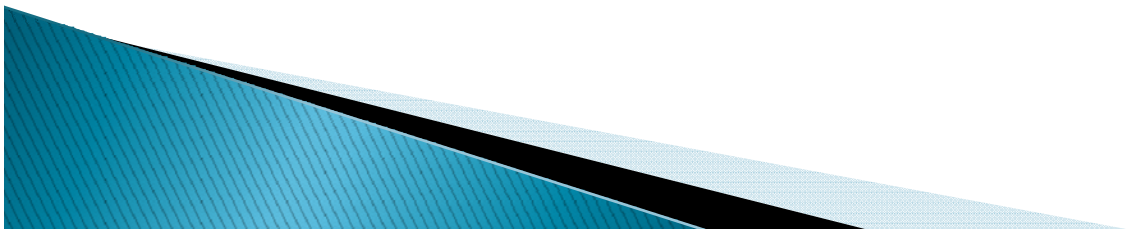
Don't just describe all the data you have ever collected, tell a story

Know your audience

In house Works in Progress- Can be open ended, leaving room for discussion on what to do next

Short 10 min oral presentation at a more casual meeting- More formal but still needs to leave discussion time

Short 10 min oral presentation at AHA or a formal meeting- Very formal, all rules of formal presenting apply (including dress code)



Organizing your talk: Part 2

Know your time limit

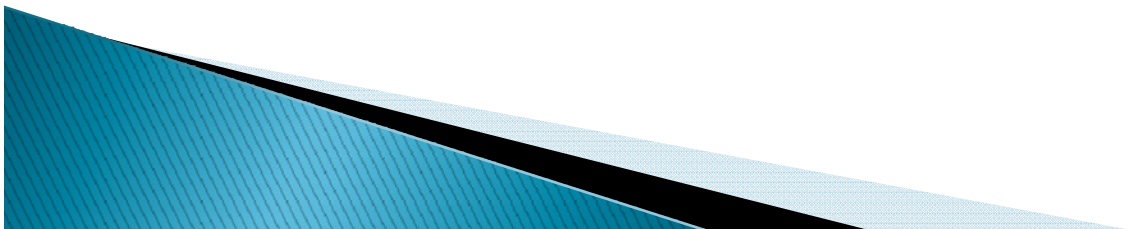
Stick rigidly to the one minute per slide when you prepare your talk and practice until you stay in time!

Know the weakness in your data

You will get questions on it, that's okay as long as you have an answer prepared

Know your moderators

They ask questions, particularly at the beginning of the question period



Knowing your Data: Structure of a Clear Presentation

Title

Introduction/
Background

Methods

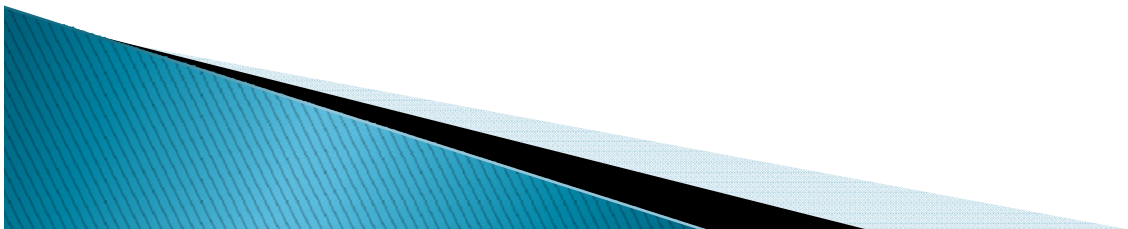
Results

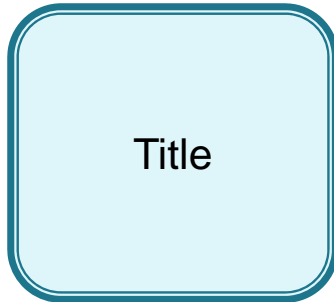
Results

Conclusions

Future
Directions

Acknowledge-
ments





Telling your audience specifically what you are going to be talking about

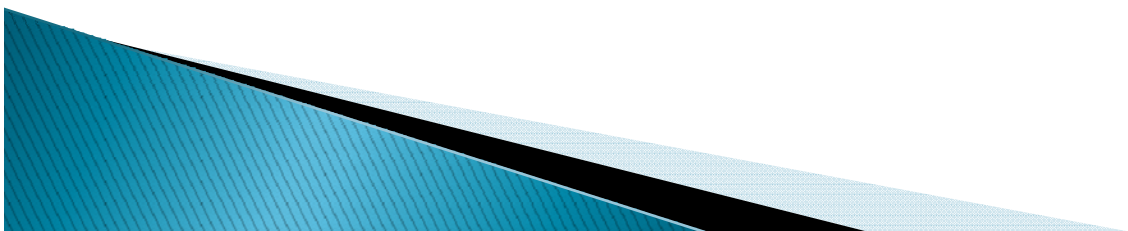
Make your title very specific:

Good title: The phosphorylation of the gap junction protein Connexin43 changes channel gating properties in ischemia

Bad title: Closing the gap, when Cx43 has got to "P"

Do not use abbreviations in your title-Not everyone in the audience is an expert in your field.

Put your name, degree and affiliation on your title slide



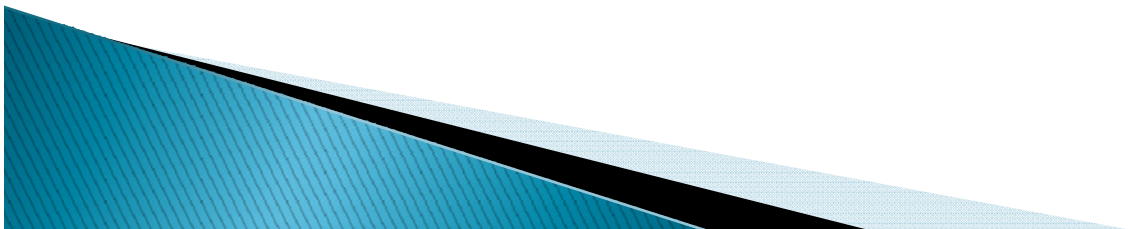


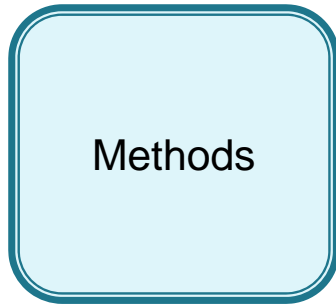
Giving the relevant background to help the audience understand why your study is important in research today

Use bullet points, not paragraph style

If you use cited work put the citations on the bottom of the slide but do not read them

Summarize main points, don't review every method or finding





Methods slides are optional, only use them if you have a method that is not common or is particularly difficult to understand

Briefly describe the purpose of the method (to resolve Calcium release at high resolution)

Do not describe how you collected the data, describe what the images represent (this method shows increased blue light at the sites of release)

Show ONE example of the data so that when the audience sees it in the talk, they can decipher the data





Most important slides in your talk

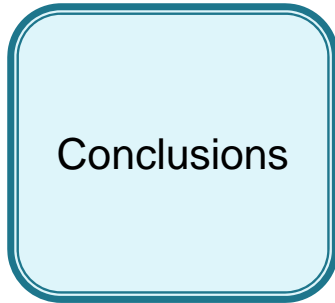
Minimize clutter, don't overcrowd your slide

Also do not have a lot of empty white space on your slide

If there is an image on the slide talk about it!

If you want to talk about some data piece more than once, put the picture in more than once. Don't go back and forth between slides

Make microscopy pictures big, blot data medium and graphs can be small



Key points only

Use bullet points


Don't read the slide, paraphrase the slide

Use specific examples to support your conclusions

Immunostaining images showed Cx43 phosphorylation patterns changed in ischemia which indicated channel remodeling


Give an overall umbrella conclusion at the end

These studies show the importance of phosphorylation in gap junction function in ischemia



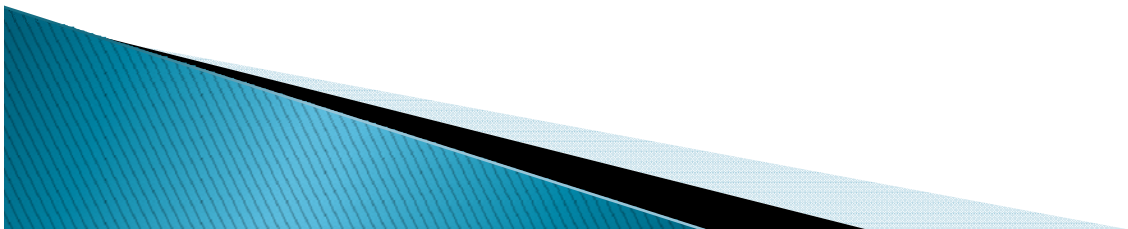
Future
Directions

This is a very important slide in job talks or Works in Progress but less important in other talks



Acknowledge-
ments

If you skip this slide I would NEVER hire you. This slides shows that you are collegial and that you understand the value of the interactions you have with your group, your mentors and your collaborators.



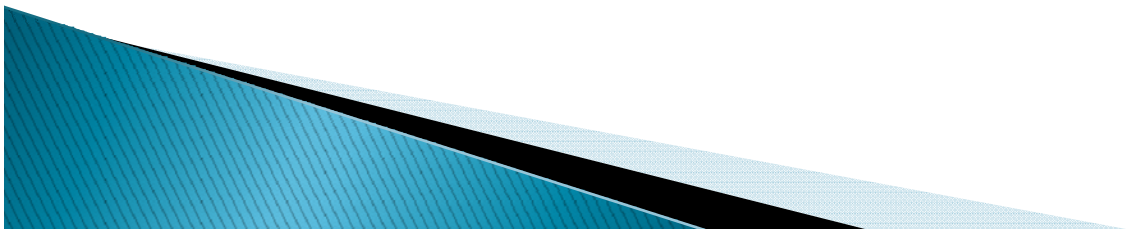
Knowing Your Audience

1. Works in Progress/Journal Club-In house colleagues, PIs, Directors/Chairs, and maybe even a Dean or two. These people are who will be giving you recommendations as you move on. You want to impress them!
2. Small National Conferences-National level colleagues including people that might be on hiring committees for you later. Additionally there are manuscript reviewers and grant reviewers in the room.
3. Large National Conferences-National and International colleagues. Again these may be people on hiring, manuscript or grant committees for you! Add in that the heads of various NIH programs attend these meetings.
4. International Conferences-International colleagues, fewer grant reviewers (although maybe not none) but as you move up the promotion list you need international contacts.



Engaging the Audience

1. Use clear font large enough to be seen at the back
2. Do not read the slides to the audience, paraphrase and sum up the contents of the slide
3. Look at the audience, not the slides
4. Speak loudly or use the microphone



Know Your Time Limits

Use the one minute a slide rule. Title, disclosure and acknowledgement slides don't count

Practice so that you do not run over time. Particularly when you are junior this is a sign of a lack of organization, skill and understand of the business.

No one listens after the end of the allotted time, really-they don't

If you run out of time before your conclusion slide, just put it back on after the acknowledgements and leave it up there **WITHOUT** going over it



Speaking Like a Professional

Face the audience most of the time

Do not read the slides to your audience

Memorize your talk, do not use flash cards or notes

Practice using the pointer (both the laser pointer and the mouse pointer)

Videotape yourself and watch for:


Excessive use of the words “Um” or “Like” etc

Fidgeting hands, feet

PRACTICE PRACTICE PRACTICE PRACTICE PRACTICE PRACTICE



Being a Professional

1. Dress Appropriately for the venue
No jeans or flip flops EVER (not fond of sneakers either....)
 2. Women-2 Inch rule. No skirt should be shorter than 2 inches above your knee. No spaghetti strap tops
 3. Men-Button down or Polo-type pullover, tucked in
 4. I never want to see anyone's underwear, underwear straps or underwear waistbands-period....ever...really
 5. If you have long hair, wear it up or back to avoid brushing the microphone
- 

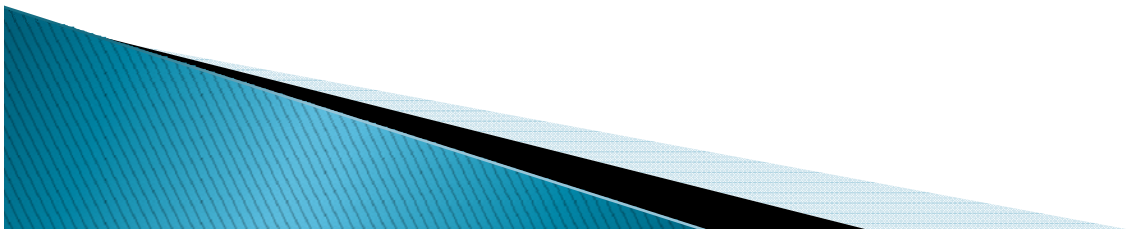
Conclusions

There are set speaking rules, despite what it may look like as an audience member

Organize your talk at least 2 weeks before the date you have to give it

Have others listen to you and critique your talk honestly

PRACTICE PRACTICE PRACTICE PRACTICE



Acknowledgements

Maria Kontaridis PhD

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