

Effective Communication

To become a successful scientific researcher, it is essential for a research fellow to master effective communication skills and to be good at networking. Funded by LDC of Warwick University, I took part in the Communication & Impact for Female Early Career Researchers training at the Cumberland Lodge from Jan. 4th to 6th, 2013.

The course focused on women in science and the Media. On the first day, we learned popular science writing and about science in the media with Claire Ainsworth, and did Radio exercises with Gareth Mitchell. On the second day, we attended Helen Goulding's talk on how to perform confidently and assertively and how to build a personal brand. We also practiced video broadcasting with Greg Foot. On the last day, we went to BBC Broadcasting House and created radio programmes in groups.

The course was instructive, inspiring and interactive. Through the course, I improved bit by bit on communicating my research topic with other group members. In the end, I could attract my audiences and convince them that my research project is very important, exciting and challenging. At the same time, I also enjoyed listening to the others' work and sharing experiences.

Joining in the same course and doing practices in different groups also gave us a great opportunity to meet each other and to build a network. It was really amazing that we worked together on small projects cooperatively, effectively and efficiently even though we had only recently got to know each other.

I appreciate this event very much. I will continue practicing effective communication skills during my daily research work. These skills will play a more and more important role in further career development. If there is a possibility, I would like to share my experiences with my female colleagues and female PhD students at a tea-time seminar at Warwick Systems Biology Centre.

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