

Engaging scientists in communicating to the broad public

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Young and enthusiastic scientists at the forefront of scientific discovery are sharing their passion for science in an understandable and entertaining way in a relaxed atmosphere of a bar or a pub, by using live experiments, props and creative, visual presentations allowing the audience to experience a fully interactive event.

What is a Science Slam?

A science slam is a competition, during which young scientists present their own research in max. 10 minutes in a comprehensible, vivid and engaging way. The goal is to win the audience's mind and hearts as only the audience is the jury and decides, who will win.

Criteria for a good science slam are therefore not only the scientific content but also comprehensibility and humor.

The aim of science slams is to promote communication skills of junior scientists and to evoke an interest for scientific topics in the general public.



The BCN Science Slam

Science slams were established first in Germany in 2006 and soon spread across Europe as a popular event for giving a stage to young scientists to convey their passion for science to a lay audience in a relaxed atmosphere of a bar or a pub.

The BCN Science Slam was established in early 2017 by the Centre for Genomic Regulation (CRG), which has since then run two editions per year together with different collaborators like the Barcelona Institute for Science and Technology (BIST) and the Marie Curie Alumni Association (MCAA), with whom it also co-organized a European Science Slam final during the ESOF2018 conference in Toulouse.



Associated training course in science communication

Young scientists rarely get the opportunity to present to a broad audience and to share their passion for their work. It is also rare to be able to break from the normal restraints of classic scientific communication; for this reason, it is important that the scientists beforehand get adequate training in this particular methods and style of presentation:

CRG developed a two full-days course prior to the science slam, where participants learn and practice how to bring their science to life by using simply, but effective storytelling techniques such as analogies and metaphors. Popular part of the workshop are techniques, which help participants dealing with stage fright.



Engaging, informing and entertaining the audience

During the event, an experienced moderator is on the stage, presenting the speakers, interacting with the audience, and ultimately engaging the audience to decide on the winner.

The audience is the judge and jury, voting for their preferred candidate by two usual techniques:

- the volume of the applause after each presentation
- the score given by the audience after a short group discussion



Building a new generation of science communicators

Scientists, who participated in the BCN Science Slam notably loose stage fright and get highly motivated to participate in other science communication events like other science slams abroad, institutes' open days or "My Thesis in 3 Minutes (3MT)" events.



If you are interested to get more information or if you would like to organize a science slam, get in touch with us on Facebook ("BCN Science Slam") or send an email to: training@crg.eu