

For the group discussions during the retreat symposium, IRTG members negotiated the following guidelines:

GROUP 1 DISCUSSION GUIDELINES

- Ask at least one question per session
- Try to write down one (or more) questions(s) and one (or more) opinions(s)
- Written feedback on presentation: one (or more) positive and negative point each

GROUP 2 DISCUSSION GUIDELINES

- (+/–) feedback on a notepaper (volume, speed, etc.)
- General questions at the end of the talk; questions about general understanding throughout
- speaker should try to be interactive
- Moderation by the next/following speaker (time, introduction, questions)
- Any questions are welcome!
- Each participant should ask at least one question per session
- No-go: no rude questions (be diplomatic); if literature questions, make it constructive

IRTG LECTURE SERIES: REFLECTION AND OUTLOOK

The consensus was the 90 min format is too long, which often results in lectures overloaded with information that is hard to digest. Despite attempts to encourage interactive talks from the PIs and discussion/questions from the IRTG members, lectures usually turn into the equivalent of long conference talks, during which the IRTG members fall into a passive audience role.

In the spirit of fostering discussion and trying to make the IRTG lecture series different than other scientific talks – a special opportunity rather than simply a requirement – the IRTG body suggests:

- IRTG members make every effort on their part to create a positive and interactive atmosphere,
- IRTG Lectures will continue to be given by the PIs, taking advantage of the opportunity for exposure and contact with the SFB group leaders,
- The time format will be shortened to 60 min + casual discussion,
- Drinks and pretzels will still be available (unresolved: eating and drinking should be during or after the talk?)
- An IRTG member will continue to do the moderation, including a short introduction before the talk, mediation of questions during discussion and asking questions if none come up.

It is requested of the PIs:

- Talk/presentation content should include two parts, CV and scientific work, integrating personal history and insights and a compact summary of either the focus of a general scientific field or one project. (Avoid information overload!). Other suggestions include:
 - How you came up with projects, and how you were able to realize/execute them,

- What was the most important breakthrough or a critical moment, in your career?
- Was there a particular paper that you consider instrumental in your career? Use this as an example/framework to explain a successful project.
- Share problems or obstacles that have occurred; be authentic about the ups and downs. Share behind-the-scenes information.
- Suggestions from PIs for individual talks are welcome (e.g. different talk venues, tours of core facilities)
- If feasible, an abstract or description of the talk would be welcome, so that the IRTG audience knows what to expect.
- With consent of the speaker, the IRTG audience could give immediate feedback/critique about the talk.

CONTRIBUTIONS FROM POSTDOCS

Lectures from postdocs would be welcome in methods-related workshop situations (not mandatory IRTG lectures). Some suggestions:

- NGS computational analysis
- SAXS
- RNA-IP
- ChIP-Seq
- RNA-Seq
- Mass Spec
- Chromatin Accessibility Assay
- High-C (4-C/5-C)

Elizabeth will look into organizing Methods workshops, similar to Bioimaging Day, where there is a focus on a particular method and the resources on campus. Input from all members is necessary to determine appropriate methods.

GENERAL SUGGESTIONS/WISH LIST:

- Email reminder for CRC lectures
- Send the Google calendar subscription link again:

XML: <https://www.google.com/calendar/feeds/6r6ii4escjm8t6kc7142ggbltc%40group.calendar.google.com/public/basic>

iCAL: <https://www.google.com/calendar/ical/6r6ii4escjm8t6kc7142ggbltc%40group.calendar.google.com/public/basic.ics>

HTML: <https://www.google.com/calendar/embed?src=6r6ii4escjm8t6kc7142ggbltc%40group.calendar.google.com&ctz=Europe/Berlin>

More suggestions for future workshops:

- Voice training and body language
- Career orientaton (different for senior and junior members)
- Project management
- Scientific management

gez. ES-R