

Novel Approaches to Building Cross-Disciplinary Communication Capacity in Research Centers

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Abstract

Research centers can achieve success in tackling significant scientific and technical challenges by creating an environment that fosters a convergence of expertise drawn from narrowly *divergent* fields. Progress can be accelerated by taking measures to reduce communication barriers between collaborators who speak a variety of technical languages and take for granted certain assumptions understood best by those within their own subspecialty. The Strategic Projects team at the Museum of Science has developed a number of replicable approaches to enhance effective cross-disciplinary communication within research centers. These include scientific presentation coaching, peer review, video feedback, an annual meeting *Research Communication Challenge*, and moderated monthly research meetings. Efforts like these can also enhance the education and inclusion aims of research organizations, fostering broader participation. We have also found that coaching early career researchers in communicating effectively with public audiences has not only greatly enriched what the Museum can provide, but has also amplified the researchers' capacity to think more imaginatively about communicating across disciplinary barriers in professional settings. A recent example is the launch this year of the *Quantum Matters™ Science Communication Competition*.