

Title: Research Methodology and Scientific Communication Skills [3-0-0-3]**Content :**

Empirical science; scientific method; manipulative experiments and controls; deductive and inductive reasoning; descriptive science; reductionist vs holistic biology. Choosing a mentor, lab and research question; maintaining a lab notebook. Concept of effective communication- setting clear goals for communication; determining outcomes and results; initiating communication; avoiding breakdowns while communicating; creating value in conversation; barriers to effective communication; non-verbal communication- interpreting non-verbal cues; importance of body language, power of effective listening; recognizing cultural differences; Presentation skills - formal presentation skills; preparing and presenting using over-head projector, PowerPoint; defending interrogation; scientific poster preparation & presentation; participating in group discussions; Computing skills for scientific research - web browsing for information search; search engines and their mechanism of searching; hidden Web and its importance in scientific research; internet as a medium of interaction between scientists; effective email strategy using the right tone and conciseness. Technical writing skills - types of reports; layout of a formal report; scientific writing skills - importance of communicating science; problems while writing a scientific document; plagiarism, software for plagiarism; scientific publication writing: elements of a scientific paper including abstract, introduction, materials & methods, results, discussion, references; drafting titles and framing abstracts; publishing scientific papers - peer review process and problems, recent developments such as open access and non-blind review; plagiarism; characteristics of effective technical communication; scientific presentations; ethical issues; scientific misconduct.

Texts / References:

1. Valiela, I. (2001). *Doing Science: Design, Analysis, and Communication of Scientific Research*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
2. *On Being a Scientist: a Guide to Responsible Conduct in Research*. (2009). Washington, D.C.: National Academies Press.
3. Gopen, G. D., & Smith, J. A. The Science of Scientific Writing. *American Scientist*, 78 (Nov-Dec 1990), 550-558.
4. Mohan, K., & Singh, N. P. (2010). *Speaking English Effectively*. Delhi: Macmillan India.
5. Movie: *Naturally Obsessed, The Making of a Scientist*.