NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE Center for Cancer Training





A. Preparation (>1 week)

- How long is the talk?
- Is a PowerPoint presentation required?
- Audience

NIH

- Location or virtual setting
- Determine the main goal
- Create short and engaging title



C. Final Rehearsal (1-2 days)



Practice the talk out loud, standing up, and with minimal notes



Check that your sentences flow easily and correct if necessary



Utilize the images on your slides and highlight important findings or information

Stay on time!

Content from Scott Morgan, Speaking About Science, Cambridge University Press, 2006.

B. Refine Message (<1 week)

- Introduction builds a common ground incorporating audience's knowledge base
- Stress the main hypothesis and the take-home-message
- Present important data focusing on answering your main question
- Number of slides (~2 mins/slide)
- Show enthusiasm for your work
- Present clear and concise future directions with examples
- End talk strong with prompts for discussion/questions

D. Game Day!

- Speak out loud before the talk to warm up
- Exercise or take a walk before to calm your nerves



- Dress to impress!
- Be confident
- Keep good posture
- Make eye contact and keep a steady pace
- Repeat questions if needed and answer briefly
- Redirect the question if necessary