# **CAREER** ESSENTIALS

## PHDS & POSTDOCS

CAREERS

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Faculty interview preparation: Chalk talk: examples of text and diagrams



### Chalk talk examples of text and diagrams



How to structure a chalk talk taking my own research as an example

Prof. Jason S. Carroll

Cancer Research UK Cambridge Institute University of Cambridge





who has assessed many chalk talks

#### The chalk talk – example in practice

#### **Overall: We want to understand estrogen mechanism in cancer**

Goal 1: Explore the functional interplay between hormones in cancer

Goal 2: Develop methods for studying protein-DNA interactions

Goal 3: Chemical screens and in vivo validation

What do I do when I give a chalk talk?

Goal 1: Explore the functional interplay between hormones in cancer

- Briefly, what do we currently know?
- Understand how estrogen receptor and androgen receptor interact
- Assess role of other proteins in breast cancer



- Transcription factor binding
- Response to drugs

What do I do when I give a chalk talk?

Goal 1: Explore the functional interplay between hormones in cancer

- Briefly, what do we currently know?
- Understand how estrogen receptor and androgen receptor interact
- Assess role of other proteins in breast cancer



- Assess different isoforms
- Transcription factor binding
- Response to drugs

What do I do when I give a chalk talk?

Goal 2: Develop methods for studying protein-DNA interactions



We will develop a new system for protein-DNA interactions

Preliminary data

Contingency plans

What do I do when I give a chalk talk?

Goal 2: Develop methods for studying protein-DNA interactions



We will develop a new system for protein-DNA interactions

Preliminary data

Contingency plans

### What if that fails?

Goal 2 should benefit from insight gained from Goal 1, but not be completely dependent on its success

What do I do when I give a chalk talk?

Goal 3: Establish novel system to identify chemical inhibitors

Goal 3: In vivo validation of candidates

Long term aim is.....

Why it's needed.....

This will generate future projects......

Goal 3 should benefit from insight gained from Goal 1 and 2, but not be completely dependent on their success

Goal 3 can be more ambitious and potentially risky



#### **GOOD LUCK**



You can get feedback and practise your chalk talk with the Careers Service – just book an appointment on Handshake