



ANNOUNCEMENT

Making Career-spanning Learning in the Life Sciences Inclusive and Effective for All

Late 2021

Overview

The rapidly-increasing interdisciplinarity of the life sciences makes career-spanning learning critical. Scientists who are able to recognize and traverse skills gaps are better positioned to pursue impactful science and achieve their personal career goals. To bolster their skills life scientists often turn to short-format training (e.g., workshops, bootcamps, and short courses). While it provides point-of-need help, and is often low in time commitment and costs, this approach can be less successful than typically assumed.

Short-format training has the potential to accelerate innovation; unfortunately, it is generally not grounded in effective pedagogy. Effort has been expended to incorporate some principles of educational sciences, but much of what we know works is not implemented including promotion of self-directed learning and learning opportunities that encourage continuing growth. In addition, structural obstacles must be addressed to promote scalable solutions that equitably benefit all members of the life science community.

To address these challenges, a small think tank-style conference, sponsored by NSF ([DRL#2027025](#)), will work toward implementable solutions to improve short-format training, making it more effective and inclusive for all. We hope to attract a diverse group of experts with experience relevant to instruction (short-format and otherwise) to ensure that solutions draw on educational research, the experience and needs of the global community, and variability in disciplinary training, career stage, and career path.

The work of the conference is to use a structured process to draft pragmatic recommendations to strengthen short-format training. These contributions will progress toward a community-accepted framework that addresses how strategies can be made effective, inclusive, scalable, and work for the benefit of underserved learners.

(continued)



How to Participate

Attend the conference (~30 attendees); Nominations open April 14 - Close May 31

Self-nomination form: <https://survey.zohopublic.com/zs/SAChZY>

[A preview of the self-nomination form can be found at the end of this announcement]

To drive meaningful discussion, ~30 attendees will be invited to attend the conference in early December 2021 (in-person, Cold Spring Harbor, NY; virtual participation options available). We seek to attract a diverse group of attendees. We anticipate the group convened will include expertise in the sciences, education, policy, and funding. Potential attendees should self-nominate via the form/link above.

Contribute Vignettes (anyone and everyone); Submissions open May 10 - Close June 30

The work of the conference is focused on solving challenges encountered in teaching short-format courses. Conference attendees will be considering vignettes that describe specific instructional challenges or barriers. We want to ensure that the barriers that are considered in the meeting are representative of actual experiences with short form teaching and learning. We invite submissions of challenges (e.g., "How do I ensure that my course content is up to date in such a fast-changing disciplinary context?", "How do I ensure that my training course is accessible?" or "How can I integrate ethical content into my course?") for consideration and solutions, from a variety of instructional contexts and as wide a range of life sciences training as possible.

Comment on the white paper (anyone and everyone); Available in early 2022

Following the conference, a white paper will be available for community comment, prior to formal publication. Through this feedback we hope to develop the broadest consensus possible on recommendations the community should strive to implement and research questions that merit additional study.

Join the mailing list

If you would like to be reminded of submission deadlines, outputs of the conference, or other conference-related notifications please join our mailing list using the following link: <https://survey.zohopublic.com/zs/iTCs9U>

This conference is funded by NSF, [DRL#2027025](#)

(Continue to next page for a preview of the self-nomination form)



PREVIEW: SELF-NOMINATION FORM

For preview purposes only; only nominations submitted online will be considered.

Self-nomination form: <https://survey.zohopublic.com/zs/SAChZY>

MAKING CAREER-SPANNING LEARNING IN THE LIFE SCIENCES INCLUSIVE AND EFFECTIVE FOR ALL

December 2021*, Banbury Center, New York, USA

[*By July 2021, those selected will receive official invitations including details about the meeting date/time, accommodations, and travel]

We are planning for an in-person conference; those selected for the meeting will receive an official invitation from the Banbury Center by July 2021. This invitation will include conference dates as well as full travel and accommodation details. We recognize that decisions may be contingent upon evolving pandemic-related circumstances.

The meeting will span four days/three nights: beginning at 6.00pm EST on Day 1, and concluding around 2.00pm EST on Day 4. Lodging and meals will be provided for all invited participants, and the Center will work directly with invitees on any non-standard accommodation/conference facility requests. A travel allowance will be provided for participants from academic and other not-for-profit organizations; this allowance typically covers all associated travel expenses.

While the majority of participants will be in-person, a limited number of VIRTUAL attendees will be accommodated. Though we are making virtual participation possible, we do not intend for it to be a substitute for in-person participation. At the time of invitations, the Banbury Center will work with each virtual attendee to ensure, on a case-by-case basis, that meaningful participation is possible. [Note: The meeting will be held in the US Eastern time zone].

Participants from policy-making and funding organizations may apply to attend as observers.

We expect all in-person attendees to be present for the entire duration of the meeting. Virtual attendees (and observers) will not be required to attend sessions during hours considered unsocial in your time zone, nor in informal discussion periods.

This self-nomination form includes three sections:

- I. Career & Education (selection or short answer)
- II. Related Experience (short answer - 300 words maximum)
- III. Demographic Information (selection)

In Section II you will have the option to upload a two-page CV or a two-page statement of related professional experience (*both are optional, neither are required*). The CV or statement should be a PDF, and the file named using the format: LASTNAME_FIRSTNAME

For section II (Related Experience), we strongly recommend composing your answers in a separate document to track character count, then pasting the response into the field.

The deadline for submission is MAY 31, 2021



First Name / Given Name

Last Name / Surname

Email address [*This address will be used to contact you if you are selected for an invitation AND this address will receive a copy of your application upon submitting. Please 'whitelist' our address (Banbury@cshl.edu) to ensure you are able to receive our messages.*]

If invited, how do you intend to participate?

I intend to participate IN-PERSON

I intend to participate VIRTUALLY

I intend to participate as an IN-PERSON OBSERVER (e.g., representing a funding or policy-making body)

I intend to participate as a VIRTUAL OBSERVER (e.g., representing a funding or policy-making body)

I. Career & Education

Current employer

Current position (job title)

Career stage

Early-career (typically within 10 years of terminal degree)

Mid-career (more than 10 years after terminal degree)

Late-career or beyond (within 5 years of retirement, emeritus, or retired status)

Career status

Non-tenure track

Tenure track

Tenured

Non-academic

Other (please specify)

Education: Highest degree(s) obtained

Please list up to five products of your work/experience relevant to the conference (e.g., publications, courses taught)

II. Relevant Experience

How does your professional work relate to the topic of short-format training? (1800 characters maximum, approximately 300 words)

Are there additional areas of expertise or personal experience relevant to short-format training that you would bring to this conference?

If nothing additional, please enter "NA." (1800 characters max., approx. 300 words)

What community(-ies) would you represent at this meeting, and how would you bring the work done at the meeting back to a community(-ies)? (1800 characters max., approx. 300 words)



Why do you want to participate in this conference? What would this conference have to achieve to make it worth your time? How would you contribute to achieving this? (1800 characters max., approx. 300 words)

[Optional] CV or statement of related professional experience: Two pages maximum (any text beyond a second page will be deleted); PDF format only; File named using the format: LASTNAME_FIRSTNAME

III. Demographic Information

The Banbury Center and conference organizers are committed to the values of diversity, equity, and inclusion. We believe this meeting's effectiveness will rely on convening a group of participants that reflects the diversity of those we expect our work/outputs to serve. Therefore, demographic information will be one of the factors used in selecting participants.

Please indicate your gender

- Woman
- Man
- Nonbinary
- Prefer not to disclose
- Prefer to self-describe (please specify)

Which category(-ies) describe your race/ethnicity?

Select all boxes that apply; you may select more than one category.

- White (e.g., German, Irish, English, Italian, Polish, French)
- Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin (e.g., Mexican or Mexican American, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Salvadoran, Dominican, Colombian)
- Black (e.g., African American, Jamaican, Haitian, Nigerian, Ethiopian, Somalian)
- Asian (e.g., Chinese, Filipino, Asian Indian, Vietnamese, Korean, Japanese)
- Indigenous, First Nations, American Indian, or Alaska Native (e.g., Aboriginal, Navajo Nation, Blackfeet tribe, Mayan, Nahua, Native Village or Barrow Inupiat Traditional Government, Nome Eskimo Community)
- Middle Eastern or North African (e.g., Lebanese, Iranian, Egyptian, Syrian, Moroccan, Algerian)
- Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander (e.g. Samoan, Chamorro, Tongan, Fijian)
- I prefer not to say
- Other (please specify)

In what country are you primarily employed?

Do you consider yourself any of the following?

You may select more than one category.

- A race/ethnicity underrepresented in the life sciences (e.g., Indigenous, Black, person of color)?
- A disabled person
- A member of the Deaf community
- Not applicable
- Prefer not to respond
- Another category with which you wish to identify

If "Another category with which you wish to identify," please specify

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