



**INSTITUTO DE
MEDICINA MOLECULAR**

FACULDADE DE MEDICINA DA
UNIVERSIDADE DE LISBOA

**IMM Post-Doctoral
Training program**

Grant Writing Workshop

MAKING SENSE OF THE SCIENCE

A Course on Effective Scientific Writing

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Science and Engineering at Princeton

University, USA

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IMM (room 57)

LUSO-AMERICAN
FOUNDATION

FCT
Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia
MINISTÉRIO DA CIÊNCIA, TECNOLOGIA E ENSINO SUPERIOR

Scientific Writing from the Readers' Perspective

A Workshop on Effective Abstracts and Grant Proposals

Writing well about science is challenging. According to research, the most effective writers are those who know how to revise productively: They produce writing that communicates well because they can analyze skillfully both complex written documents and the needs of sophisticated readers. Yet even though scientists spend a significant part of each day writing, editing, reading, and responding to documents, strategies for investigating writing in science at a professional level are relatively undeveloped.

This day-long workshop is an intensive course in analyzing and revising scientific writing by investigating writing from the readers' perspective. Everyone is more experienced at reading than writing, but few of us have explored how to capture our experience as readers in forms that can guide us as writers. In this workshop, we'll make explicit the familiar but implicit expectations of scientific readers; we'll capture those expectations as principles for clear writing and test those principles on scientific documents, including research abstracts and funding proposals. In particular, we'll examine how to transmit to readers not just information but also instructions on how to evaluate the information. Along the way, we'll develop strategies for working efficiently and productively with writing – whether your own or that of your colleagues. You'll come away with not only practical guidelines for generating clear and concise scientific documents but also a new perspective on how to collaborate throughout your career to improve the quality and impact of scientific communications.

The workshop instructor, Judith A. Swan, Ph.D., is Associate Director for Writing in Science and Engineering at Princeton University in the US. In addition to developing writing courses for graduate students and post docs at Princeton, Dr. Swan has taught writing to professionals throughout academia, industry, and government. She has offered workshops on effective proposals at Rockefeller University, University of Pennsylvania, Icahn School of Medicine at Mt. Sinai, Columbia School of Medicine, and Princeton University; she has also taught scientific writing repeatedly at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the US Environmental Protection Agency, and the US National Institutes of Health.