

SciCommTO Conference 2020

February 21 - 22, 2020

SPEED NETWORKING

More successful than speed dating and less awkward than a networking coffee break, this is your opportunity to quickly meet a whole host of science communication enthusiasts and experts with a variety of expertise.

Mentors - Those with science communication experience (paid or volunteer). Share a bit about your background and careers in SciComm. Be concise, as you'll only have a few minutes per conversation and will want to leave time for mentee questions.

Mentees - Those relatively new to SciComm or looking to network. Circulate around the room talking with each mentor for a few minutes. Be sure to bring your burning SciComm questions and mention what your career and/or conference goals are.

You decide where you fit best but you can always ask an organizer for advice if you're unsure. You are welcome to change how you identify yourself.

FORMAT

- Tables are in a circle around the outside of the room.
- Mentors sit inside the circle.
- Mentees sit around the outside of the room.
- Try to avoid groups of more than 2-3 per mentor.
- You'll have less than five minutes for your conversations.
- An obnoxious bell(!) will signal the start and end of each round.
- When the bell sounds, mentors stay seated, mentees move swiftly to the mentor on your left.
- Unfortunately, there won't be time to meet every mentor. If there's a particular person you're keen to meet, sit with or near them at the beginning. And don't forget - you'll have the rest of the conference to meet your peers!

TOP TIPS

- Mentors and mentees should come with a rehearsed, 30 second **elevator pitch** to introduce yourself.
- Ultimately, you get out what you put in, so consider what you want to get out of this session eg. a mentor, collaborator, etc. Prepare some questions related to your **goals**.
- **Don't** sit opposite a mentor you already know. Feel free to skip a table and find an empty spot elsewhere.
- Be prepared to exchange contact information (e.g. bring **business cards**).
- **Follow up** quickly with any connection(s) you deem valuable.

Disclaimer: We acknowledge that real and meaningful mentoring is founded upon a relationship and is not something that can be provided in a quick 5 minute conversation. Understanding and trust are vital to a nurturing, mentoring relationship. Neither can be gained in the din of a fast and furious round of musical mentors! Think of this as a flash 'meet the experts' session - a fun and effective way to network and hopefully gain some valuable insights into the field.