Faculty interview preparation: Chalk talk: examples of text and diagrams
How to structure a chalk talk taking my own research as an example

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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
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

What does ER do to AR gene regulation?

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

What if that fails?

- Assess different isoforms
- Transcription factor binding
- Response to drugs
The chalk talk

What do I do when I give a chalk talk?

Goal 2: Develop methods for studying protein-DNA interactions

- Current methods are limited by......
- There is a need to develop......

We will develop a new system for protein-DNA interactions

- Preliminary data
- Contingency plans
The chalk talk

What do I do when I give a chalk talk?

Goal 2: Develop methods for studying protein-DNA interactions

Current methods are limited by......

There is a need to develop......

ER

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
The chalk talk

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.