Advocating effective, inclusive, and career-spanning short-format training in the life sciences and beyond - a purpose-built framework

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Oral presentation

Abstract

Lifelong learning is more important than ever and nearly all researchers participate in workshops or short courses to enhance their skill sets. However, there are almost no standards to guarantee training quality, and peer-reviewed evidence suggests that much of what is available is ineffective.

An international consortia consisting of 30 experts from 10 countries came together to establish a first-of-its-kind framework designed to improve professional development in the sciences. This work resulted in a publication in PLOS ONE in November 2023 "An international consensus on effective, inclusive, and career-spanning short-format training in the life sciences and beyond."

This work advocates for action to enhance the effectiveness and inclusiveness of professional development across the career-span. Such improvements could provide researchers with assurances of training quality, assisting them in maximizing their professional skills, achieving career goals, and increasing the impact of their scientific work.

Accompanying the paper, the consortia created a purpose-built framework (the Bicycle Principles) that prioritizes evidenced-based teaching, inclusiveness, and equity, as well as the ability to scale, share, and sustain training.

The next steps are to implement and put these ideas into practice.

References

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https://www.bikeprinciples.org/