**The Faculty of Science Publication Challenge 2018**

Do you want to – or need to - improve the quality of your publications? Do you want to increase your chances of getting your research published in a top journal? Doing so boosts your scientific reputation, accelerates the uptake of your results, increases the chances of grant funding, and helps you prepare for the next REF. We have collected the best tips, strategies and secrets from across the Faculty and rolled them into a Publication Challenge. The Challenge will consist of a series of workshops led by senior Strathclyde academics with excellent publication records and – at the end of the course - attendees will have a peer reviewed draft paper which is the best it can be!It is aimed at academic and research staff who have experience in writing papers, but want to write better papers.

**Challenge Workshops**

There will be three formal core meetings running over January and March 2017. These workshops will each focus on a particular aspect of a good publication. An introductory presentation will be given followed by examples and peer group work to reflect, refine and improve the quality of the paper.

Peer group support will be used throughout the workshops and for the duration of the challenge. Peer groups will be organised in department groupings with more Senior staff leading each group.

***Core Meetings***

**Session 1 – High Quality Publications - Wednesday 31st January**, **2.30 pm to 4.30 pm,**

This first session will give an introduction to the challenge and give an overview of what high quality publications are in relation to REF. There will be a presentation by Stuart Boon, Academic Development Director on Academic Writing. The focus thereafter will be on writing an abstract, peer group work will follow in order to refine and feedback to improve the abstract.

**Session 2 – Visual Content and Panel Session** **– Wednesday 21st February, 2.30 pm to 4.30 pm,**

The second session will consist of a panel of Senior Strathclyde Academics sharing their experience of publishing. Following that, a presentation and discussion will follow on presenting visual content. Peer group work will focus on improving visual content.

**Session 3 – Publishing Strategies – Wednesday 14th March, 2.30 pm to 4.30 pm,**

The final session will focus on writing a powerful and confident letter to the Editor. Strategies for targeting the correct level of journal and improving citations will also be discussed. Peer group work will follow to finalise papers.

An optional formal review of draft papers will be offered after session 2.

**Expectations of Participants**

The challenge is a practical output driven event with the expectation that on attending a paper will be further developed, improved and be made ready for submission. Participants are expected to write between formal meetings as they assimilate ideas and feedback from the variety of sources on offer to them during the Publication Challenge.

**Pre-Work**

Prior to attending session 1, participants will be expected to provide a draft of their paper and complete a short questionnaire. This will ensure that participants come to the Publication Challenge fully engaged with their writing and will get the most benefit from the challenge. Please bring the draft along to the first meeting. When registering for the challenge the questionnaire will be emailed to you.

It is expected that participants will, as a default, be working with a Departmental writing mentor so as to benefit from subject specific input especially regarding content. There are other forms of support available within their Department or at the institutional level which participants will be made aware of.

**SPARK module**

The Publication Challenge forms the core activity of the SPARK module ‘Academic Writing (Publication Challenge)’. If you are a SPARK participant you can gain 20 credits through completion of the Challenge (and attendance at the 3 core meetings) and related SPARK activities. To register on the SPARK module ‘Academic Writing (Publication Challenge)’ please follow this link <https://bookings.strath.ac.uk/courseDetails.asp?course=ACPB>

**Enrolment**

To enrol on the Publication Challenge please follow the link below <https://bookings.strath.ac.uk/Home/Course/878>

Once enrolled you will have access to a My Place page which will hold all the pre-work, course information, presentations and supporting resources.

**Contacts**

Academic Leads:

Professor Stefan Kuhr, Physics

Email: stefan.kuhr@strath.ac.uk

OSDU: Gillian Johnstone

Email: gillian.johnstone@strath.ac.uk

SPARK: Stuart Boon

Email: stuart.boon@strath.ac.uk