



# Looking for a Grand Rounds Update? Try Coaching Your Presenters

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## Needs and Objectives

- Faculty get little training in presentation skills, yet use them constantly
- Direct observation with feedback, and deliberate practice, are key concepts in achieving competency
- Little is known about using peer coaching, direct observation, and deliberate practice in improving presentation skills, and related attitudes
- Goal to improve participants' attitudes about presentations, and self-efficacy

## Methods

- Assistant Professors offered opportunity
- Observation of teaching by trained coach
- 30 minutes observation, 45 minutes feedback + practice
- Facilitated by video review

### Areas covered:

- Public speaking techniques
- Learning climate
- Communication of educational goals
- Promotion of understanding and retention
- Effective use of PowerPoint

### Speakers completed program evaluation survey, asking about:

- Comfort level for future presentations
- Likelihood of volunteering to speak in the future
- Self-assessed improvement in skill
- Would recommend program to others

- 15 of 17 invited speakers agreed to participate
- 15 of 15 participants underwent full coaching program
- 15 of 15 speakers completed evaluations

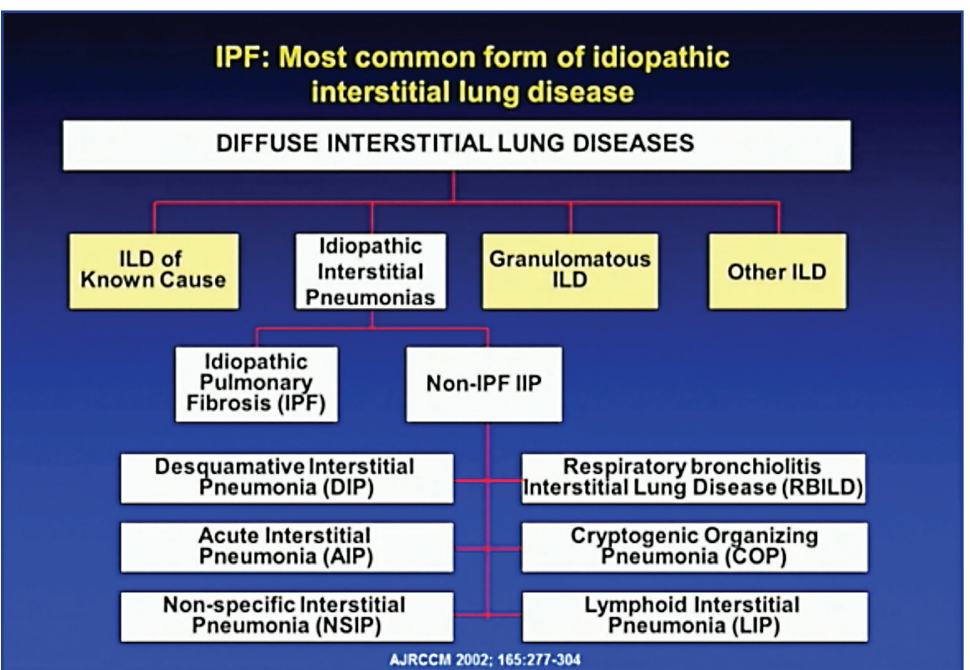
### Sample opening statement

(Pre): "Thank you for that great introduction, I'm going to tell you today about some of the work my lab is doing, trying to understand how different nutrients regulate both weight and obesity, as well as glycemic control in mice and humans..."

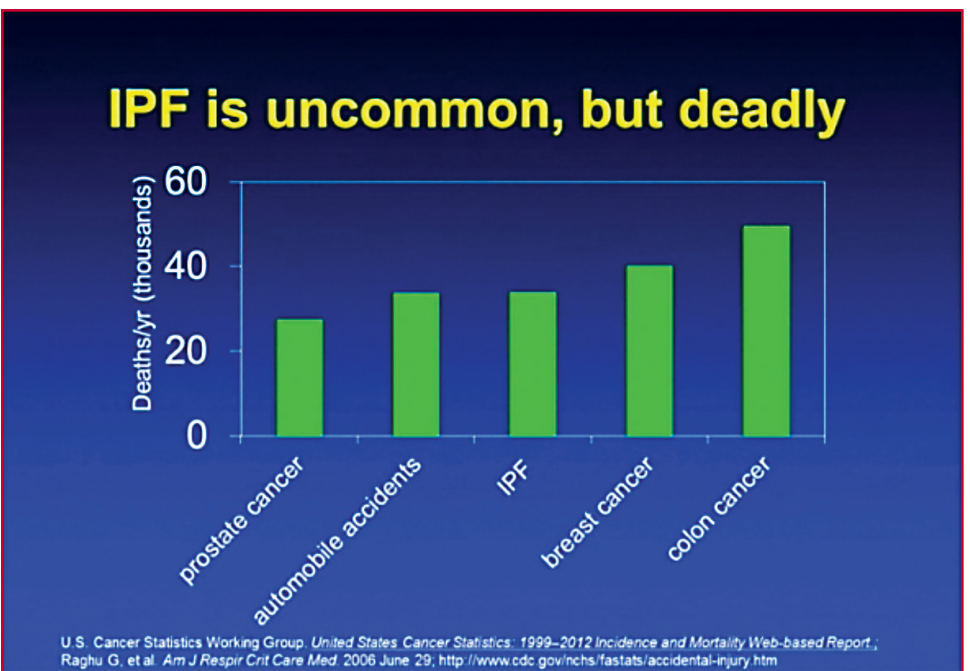
(Post): "What should we eat?? If you are a laboratory mouse, it's very easy, you eat the food that has been provided to you by your caretakers and research team. But as humans, we have a lot more options..."

### Sample first slide

Pre →



Post →



## Results

### As a result of this coaching program, do you feel more comfortable delivering a large-group presentation?

- **8.7** on 1-10 scale (1=much less comfortable, 10=much more comfortable)

### As a result of this coaching program, do what extent do you feel your presentation skills have improved?

- **8.8** on 1-10 scale (1=no improvement, 10=much improved)

### As a result of this coaching program, are you more likely to volunteer for speaking opportunities in the future?

- **6.9** on 1-10 scale (1=much less likely, 10=much more likely)

### Would you recommend this coaching program to others?

- **10.0** on 1-10 scale (1=would not recommend, 10=would strongly recommend)

### In which 3 areas did the coaching impact/change your presentation the most? Narrative themes:

- POW statement; "restructured to start with a story at the beginning which was effective in engaging the audience"
- Physical movement; "I used the whole stage. It was surprising, but several people commented to me they enjoyed that!"
- More concise, more engaging slides; "to have specific examples where I could use 1-2 word answers in huge font really helped"
- Speech and voice; "My voice projection is often an issue so the advice to enunciate especially towards the end of the sentence was great"

## Strengths and Areas for Improvement

- Participants' attitudes about presentation and self-assessed skills improved with coaching
- Need more robust and valid measures to evaluate effectiveness of intervention
- Substantial time investment
- Next steps include creation of cadre of trained coaches, and expansion to various teaching venues