

Summary from Alex Compton, Ph.D.

- Have a research plan
 - Starting immediately → 5 years from now
 - Show very clearly what the scientific gaps are and how you plan to fill it
 - Note and mention three important questions in your field and how you plan to answer them
 - Be excited about your work! If you are not excited about your own work, no one else will be
- Components of the chalk talk
 - Title – should be short and impactful
 - Aim 1 – what you will do immediately, and the results should lead to the next aim
 - Aim 2 – will be more exploratory
 - End – Recap it all and show examples of potential funding resources
- Practice, practice, practice! Your chalk talk should:
 - Show your personality – the committee wants to see if you will be a good fit and potential collaborator
 - Demonstrate your inner PI and show that you are an independent thinker
 - If you plan to carry over a project from your postdoc, show how your work will be distinct from your PI's work
 - Show that you are strategic thinker – the purpose of the chalk talk is to see how quick you think on your feet, and if you have the personality that can brainstorm and work with other PIs
- Tips
 - Do your homework
 - Know your project and background literature
 - Know the people in the lab/department and those who you will potentially interact with
 - Consider writing a K99 application, or at least review it
 - Your aims on the chalk talk should look like aims on a grant application
 - Always mention the resources/budget that will go into each aim
 - Remember to use the space wisely, in case you must draw more at the end
 - The drawings should be logical and understandable to a person walking in at the last minute.
 - If you applying to a position with a teaching component, know how to teach!
 - If you don't have teaching experience, take advantage of CCT and OITE resources on teaching
 - Give credit where it is due
 - Be ready to describe one potential collaborator at the institution (you can use NIH Reporter to accomplish this)
 - Identify and know your competition
 - Resources: [Preparing an Academic Chalk Talk](#) and [Demystifying the Chalk Talk](#)

Summary from Ramiro Iglesias-Bartolome, Ph.D.

- Be prepared
 - Check out the chalk talk format VERY carefully (double/triple check it)
 - Slides vs chalk board vs white board
 - Chalk talk can take 1-2hrs
 - Expect a lot of interruptions. Be flexible and natural → Internalization (instead of memorization) can help with this
 - Keep within the time, give brief answers
- Important things to consider or incorporate when preparing our talk
 - Make your title very broad
 - Example: GPCP regulation of somatic stem cells
 - Share your research plan and how you propose to answer the questions. Include methods!
 - Show short-term mission and long-term vision
 - Explain different parts of the projects and rationale
 - Concentrate on what YOU are going to do and HOW!
 - Discuss why you are interested
 - Provide a model
 - Example: Skin – describe different layers of the skin, and which components you are interested in or provide an intro to GPCR draw the structure
 - Having preliminary data never hurts! It doesn't need to be a lot
 - Use capital letters
 - Be clear about what your time scale is for your projects
 - Assume that you will have a lab of three, including yourself
 - Don't mention collaborators if they don't ask, but be prepared just in case they do
 - Know areas of overlap in the department