

Assignment submitted by I.T. Spring 05 LACC
Speaker Evaluation Criteria

1) Identify the place you saw the speaker, the purpose, the duration of the talk, and the size of the audience.

I saw the speaker, Dr. Mitchell Gross, at a Grand Rounds Conference at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center. The purpose of the talk was to inform the audience about his research of the androgen signaling pathway and its role in prostate cancer. He spoke to an audience of thirty two people for approximately fifty minutes.

2) What did the speaker do to introduce the talk? How did they conclude it?

Dr. Gross began with a brief introduction about prostate cancer and the signaling pathways involved. He spoke about the way in which prostate cancer moves from an androgen dependent (almost 100% treatable) to independent state (much shorter median survival rate). To conclude the talk, he re-visited his hypothesis and reiterated the main research results. He also spoke about the future directions of the research and acknowledged his research technicians.

3) What was the general purpose, specific purpose, and thesis? Discuss how transitions were used and organizational pattern of speech.

The general purpose of the talk was to inform the audience about androgen signaling in prostate cancer. The specific purpose was to inform the audience about androgen receptor coactivators and corepressors. The hypothesis was that altered regulation of the androgen receptor coactivators and corepressors are involved in the progression to androgen-independent prostate cancer. Dr. Gross used transitions very well. Every time he introduced a piece of data with a new coactivator or corepressor he would take a moment to introduce it. He would tell the audience of its structure and function in relation to the signaling pathway. He used transitions between his introduction and the body of his speech. He also used them between the body and the conclusion. I thought the organizational pattern was a structure-function pattern. He spoke of how the structures and functions of these coactivators and corepressors affect prostate cancer. He began with a brief introduction about prostate cancer and relayed the thesis to the audience early in the talk. I thought that his thesis did not quite match the main points that he spoke about. He concluded the talk by revisiting his thesis and summarizing the main points.

[[Excellent]]

4) Identify the main points.

- I. The PIAS family's role in androgen receptor signaling.
- II. PIASy mediates androgen receptor repression.
- III. PIAS1 acts as an androgen receptor coactivator.

5) Identify three types of support they used being as specific as possible.

The types of supports that were used were mainly graphs, word charts and explanatory narratives. For example, with bar graphs, Dr. Gross showed how PIASy inhibits and PIAS1 activated androgen receptor signaling. With the word charts, Dr. Gross was able to identify the key points of the major propositions. Finally, he used explanatory narratives to explain how prostate cancer goes from an androgen dependent to independent disease.

[[Besides the above, did he cite any sources?]]

6) Were there any visual aids used? What were they? How effective were they? What improvement would you suggest?

The speaker used a PowerPoint presentation as a visual aid. This was very effective because the audience was able to easily visualize the data that the speaker was referring to during the presentation. For me personally, I process information more effectively when it is visually shown to me as opposed to simply spoken. PowerPoint allows the audience to refer to the screen if a specific point is not heard or needs clarification. I did find some areas upon which Dr. Gross could have improved on his visual aid. I thought that some of his slides were a little too wordy. He attempted to cram too much information on some of them. Also, the coloring on some of the slides could have been better. Some of the words and symbols were a little difficult to read because of their small size.

[[Excellent analysis]]

7) Make a key word outline of the speech you heard.

Introduction

- I. Androgen dependent prostate cancer. [[Are you missing a word here.]]
- II. Move to androgen independent cancer.
- III. Regulation of coactivators and corepressors responsible for move.

Body

- I. PIAS family's role
 - A. PIAS isolation.
 - B. PIAS family in androgen receptor signaling.
- II. PIASy represses androgen receptor.
 - A. Dose dependent inhibition of androgen receptor.
 - B. Interacts with the DNA binding domain.
 - C. Uses LXXLL motif for inhibition.
 - D. HDAC necessary for repression.

III. PIAS1 acts as coactivator of androgen receptor.

- A. PIAS1 expressed in many tissues.
- B. Activates androgen receptor signaling in a prostate cell line.
- C. Coactivators as targets.

Conclusion

- I. Regulation of coactivators and corepressors responsible for dependent to independent prostate cancer shift.
- II. Future directions of coactivators and corepressors.

8) Analyze the vocal qualities. Pay particular attention to the use of pitch, rate, pause, etc.

I thought that Dr. Gross' voice was very engaging. He spoke at the correct rate, neither too fast nor too slow. He never seemed rushed for time at any point during the talk. He used variation correctly when he wanted to call attention to certain important points. He seemed to be speaking with a varied pitch depending on the meaning that he wanted to portray. There was an obvious change in pitch depending on whether Dr. Gross was stating a fact or asking a question. Dr. Gross had mainly unfilled pauses that were extremely effective. For example, he would pause before an important idea, after asking a rhetorical question and at the end of an important assertion. He made very few filled pauses. [[Excellent]]

9) How did the nonverbal language aid the speaker? How did it hurt the speaker?

Dr. Gross' had extremely effective nonverbal language. He had fantastic eye contact, communicating equally with members of the audience in all areas of the room. Dr. Gross' facial expression portrayed his excitement and passion about the subject matter. He used hand gestures appropriately without fidgeting and stood up straight. I thought that Dr. Gross moved about the room a bit too much which was somewhat distracting for me. Overall, he had wonderful nonverbal language and spoke calmly and confidently to his audience.

[[Very nice attention to detail.]]

10) What concepts did you learn that you would apply to your own speaking skills?

Dr. Gross is an extremely seasoned speaker from whom much can be learned. First of all, he was extremely knowledgeable and passionate about the subject matter that he was speaking about. He also spoke calmly and confidently to the audience. These skills are the ones that I would most like to perfect and apply.

[[Excellent very well done.]]