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# Taking on a Science POP challenge Title and description of your presentation

## **General guidelines**

- The length of your title must not exceed **10 words**.
- You must indicate your full name, your ongoing training level and the name of your affiliated university.
- The description of your presentation (body of your submission) must not exceed **150 words**.

In contrast to a traditional scientific abstract, it is crucial to put aside jargon and the typical *Introduction – Purpose – Results – Conclusion* structure. Don't summarize all the aspects you will cover in your presentation. Instead, try to catch the attention of your readers by sparking their curiosity and making them want to know more.

## **Example - POPULARIZATION**

#### Mapping the mind: An introduction to Connectomics

John Doe, PhD candidate in Neurology, McGill University

The number of connections between nerve cells in the human brain is estimated to be equal to the number of stars in 1250 Milky Ways. Although huge, this number does not include the connections in the retina and spinal cord, the other two parts of the central nervous system. While it is almost overwhelming, understanding these connections is crucial to understanding how our nervous system works. For this reason, so many scientists are working on connectomes, catalogues of the connections (or synapses) in the brains, spinal cords, and retinas of many different creatures. Many believe these maps could one day be adapted to use as roadmaps towards research seeking to regenerate these tissues after injury or disease. In this talk, I will invite you to delve into the world of Connectomics, covering the *What*'s, the *Why*'s and the *How*'s of this effort in mapping the nervous system

## **Example - VALORIZATION**

#### When research comes to the rescue in treating a rare disease

Marcus Brown, Postdoctoral fellow in Genetics, Concordia University

Have you ever heard of Mirror Movement (MM) disorder? This neurological condition causes limbs to involuntarily mirror the motion of their corresponding body parts on the opposite side of the body. For patients who suffer from this disorder, accomplishing simple tasks becomes a daily struggle, as any activity requiring both hands to make different, independent movements becomes extremely difficult: typing on a keyboard, tying shoelaces, etc. Rare diseases such as MM are often passed on from parents to children, affecting many generations and entire families, preventing them from becoming productive members of society, and creating a burden on the health care system. What's worse? There are no cures or therapies for MM. Research focused on understanding the root causes of this disorder – the DNA mutations that trigger it, and how – provide much-needed hope. Insights gained by these efforts will help develop treatments and allow patients to live a better life.

#### **Example - MOBILIZATION**

#### Bridging Medical Assistance in Dying and mental disorders

Jane Johnson, MSc candidate, UQAM

Medical Assistance in Dying is a polarizing topic, particularly when it involves individuals suffering from a mental disorder or when access to healthcare is limited. But how do the people concerned by this issue feel about it? Do they find it ethical to consider medical assistance in dying for individuals who do not always have, to begin with, medical assistance *to live*? Conversely, do they find it ethical to prevent those who suffer enormously from finding relief in this procedure? Can Ethics accompany them in undertaking these extremely emotional discussions and facing the difficulties to come? As a researcher, my goal is to place Ethics at the forefront of healthcare, hoping to contribute to the development of our society. Relying on the experiences of people with severe mental disorders, their loved ones and their caregivers, I strive to work with them to develop a support tool adapted to their needs.