

Early Career Scientists' Luncheon
Wednesday, October 26, 2011,
WCRP Open Science Conference, Denver, Colorado USA

Communicating Climate Science

Event Description

The demand for clear information about climate is increasing as the importance of this information grows in the face of extreme weather and global economic expansion. This increased demand comes from industry, policy makers, the general public, educators and many other sections of society. Not only is demand for clear, actionable information increasing, but so too is the complexity of the information requested.

However, the majority of scientists have had little experience explaining their work except to other scientists. This is particularly true of early career scientists who can be a tremendous resource as spokespeople for state-of-the-art research and insights. Moreover, scientists are often comfortable speaking the jargon understood by peers but not others. More understandable explanations are needed to ensure we can explain uncertainties, keep expectations of our science reasonable and ensure continued support for our work. This session will feature communications experts imparting their learning about what works, what does not and what's needed to more clearly communicate what we know about the changing climate and its impacts.

A complementary buffet lunch, courtesy of the American Meteorological Society, will be served starting at 11:50. The Panel discussion will begin at 12:10 sharp and end at 13:15. Due to logistical considerations, participation is limited to Conference attendees registered as Early Career Scientists. Please show your badge when entering the room.

Featured Panelists

- David Griggs, Monash University, Australia; climate scientist and member of the WCRP Joint Scientific Committee
- Patrick Luganda, Chairman, Network of Climate Journalists of Greater Horn of Africa (NECJOGHA)
- Andrew Freedman, Climate Central
- Alex Witze, Science News
- MODERATOR: Matt Hirschland, UCAR Communications

Participants

All registered Early Career Scientists are invited to attend.

Session Structure

- Brief introduction by the moderator (5 minutes)

- Round-robin opening comments from panelists (5 minutes maximum each) (20 minutes)
- Questions from the moderator for the panel with attendant discussion (15 minutes)
- Open Q&A with audience (15 minutes)
- Closing comments from panel (10 minutes)

Goals and Desired Outcomes

- The session will place a premium on discussion and interaction among the panel and with the audience.
- Participants will come away with insights and basic tools on how to begin preparing and engaging in a public discussion about their science shaped by global, regional and local perspectives.
- Determine when to, and when not to, engage in these type of discussions