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in science & communication

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Science to the Point

CPD TRAINING: INTRODUCTION TO VIRUSES AND EMERGING VIRAL DISEASES FOR TRANSLATORS AND INTERPRETERS

Invisible to a naked eye and yet capable of putting our lives upside down.
Scary for some, fascinating for others. A professional reality for many right now:

VIRUSES AND EMERGING DISEASES THEY CAUSE.

What are they?

What are they made of?

Why do they cause so much trouble?

How come can a virus jump between different species?

How to detect them, how to cope with them, how do the treatments work?

Many, many people are asking these and other questions today and many are struggling to answer them in detail, and often in practice, in relation to one particular virus: SARS-CoV-2. While the spotlights are on the medical staff and clinical researchers, translators and interpreters are often on the frontlines as well. And if not working on virus-related texts now, they may be faced with it soon. This workshop is designed to help medical translators and interpreters with no medical or biological background tackle this challenge.

TARGET PARTICIPANTS

Translators and interpreters working with English (as source or target language) with no profound knowledge of the virology and viral diseases field and little or no experience of writing on these topics. More experienced participants may also benefit by refining their understanding of some frequently confused concepts and terms.

Maximum 12 persons per group.

DATES AND VENUE

Dates and timing to discuss (suggested option: two or three days for an in-person training, four or sessions if online) This course has started during the sanitary crisis as highly related to the news, so it was initially run online. However, it is also possible to run it as an in-person event, whether in your premises, in ArchParc (Archamps, France, 15 min from Geneva International Airport), or in any other place at your convenience.

LANGUAGE

The working language is English but most of the activities and terminology are bilingual. The courses run for the French Translators' Society (La SFT) focus on English and French. However, those translating from other languages into English may also benefit by building a knowledge and vocabulary base from the field in the English language.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The course presents basic biological and epidemiological concepts and vocabulary from the field in a simple and yet scientific manner. If you engage fully with the programme, you will end up understanding the basics of the very fundamental concepts and terms related to viruses and emerging viral diseases. You will have also constituted a set of useful tools and resources.

TRAINING METHODS

The course is a combination of short scientific presentations on viruses and practical exercises (group activities) tailored specifically for translators. The workshop formula assumes active involvement of the participants who will not only hear but also write and talk about viruses. Especially tailored exercises provide immediate hands-on (or pens-on) experience of how to put the newly acquired knowledge into practice. In addition to the group course, the trainer will be available for at least one extra hour per day for individual tutorials and discussions. When the course is run online, the trainer is available also between the sessions.

PROGRAMME OUTLINE

The course will cover the following issues:

- What are viruses – definition and structure
- The biology of viruses, with its advantages and weak points
- Principles of Infectious viral diseases (with a focus on respiratory viruses) – vocabulary and basic concepts
- Human anti-viral defence: when and how
- Viral infections: diagnosis and treatment
- Emerging and re-emerging viral diseases: the why and how of viral epidemics, with implications for public health
- Anti-viral vaccines (NEW SESSION*)

**For those who participated in a three-session online training in 2020, we run 'catch-up' sessions on anti-viral vaccines. [Contact us](#) to participate.*

COURSE LEADER

Katarzyna Szymańska, Science to the Point

Katarzyna Szymańska holds a Ph.D. in Biological Sciences (specialty: cancer) and a postgraduate study diploma in languages and translation (specialty: English). She has extensive experience in cancer research as well as translation and editing of scientific documents, on both national (public and private) and international (WHO) level. She has contributed to the Encyclopedia of Cancer, Third Edition, by Elsevier (2018). In line with her international spirit, she has worked with people of different languages and cultures, in various contexts. As a university teacher, she has been involved in educational (knowledge transfer) programmes in developing countries and in other international exchanges.

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REGISTRATION

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