Are you a BCMP trainee who is or will be interviewing for faculty positions? Know that the department wants to help you succeed! You can practice your seminar or chalk talk for BCMP faculty members, or a broader BCMP audience, and get valuable feedback.

You are free to organize this however you want, but we’ve put together some suggestions on how to organize and structure your practice session.

What you should do (apart from preparing your talk):

- Choose to present either a practice seminar or a practice chalk talk.
- Invite two or three faculty members who you would like to receive feedback from.
- Pick a date and time that works for you and the faculty members you invited.
- You can choose to practice in front of just the two or three faculty members of your choosing, or open it up to all of BCMP.
  - If you are having a practice talk in front of a few faculty members only, you are responsible for booking your own room.
  - If you would like for your practice talk to be open to all BCMP trainees, email Kristen Parker (kristen_parker@hms.harvard.edu) with a talk title, format (seminar or chalk talk), date and time.
    - Check the availability of the Cannon Room (or similar) prior to scheduling the practice talk.
    - Kristen will book the room and send out announcements to the department.

Practice seminar talk guidelines:

- Prepare a 50-minute talk (adjust if the place you are interviewing at has given you different instructions)
- 5-10 minutes of science questions, to mimic what will happen at your seminar talk.
- 15-20 minutes of general feedback on structure, presentation style, etc. (if your talk is open to all trainees, this is the type of feedback that other trainees in the audience will also learn from).
- 40-45 minutes of in-depth feedback. You can keep this section open to all trainees so that they can learn from the feedback, or if you
prefer, you can ask them to leave and receive in-depth feedback from just your 2-3 faculty members.

Practice chalk talk guidelines:

- Prepare a chalk talk to fit into a one-hour time window. Allow for ample interruptions from the audience: audience members will be allowed to comment and ask questions, just like they will at the actual chalk talk.
- 15-20 minutes of general feedback on structure, presentation style, etc (if your talk is open to all trainees, this is the type of feedback that other trainees in the audience will also learn from).
- 40-45 minutes of in-depth feedback. You can keep this section open to all trainees so that they can learn from the feedback, or if you prefer, you can ask them to leave and receive in-depth feedback from just your 2-3 faculty members.