WG Session on Presenting Hot Topics to a Lay Audience

Dezső Horváth

Wigner Research Centre for Physics Budapest, Hungary and

Institute for Nuclear Research (Atomki)
Debrecen, Hungary







WG Session at 11:00!

Unusual time: before the plenary at 13:00



Result: 4 participants only

Jiri Rames, Ivan Melo, Jonas Strandberg and myself

Favourite topics

Recommendation: for general audience provide list of subjects for presentation. Not necessary to stick to your own HEP research topic.

Emphasize mathematics as the real language of physics.

It is possible to present even the most abstract subject, like string theory.

The smaller the auditorium the friendlier the atmosphere.

Animations make it more interesting. Good example: LHC in the beginning of Angels & Demons. Bad if attracts attention away from physics.

TV series The Big Bang Theory is good to raise interest in physics

Scientists' nights, open days

Escape room (problem solving)

Petting a physicist (meeting in a separate small room)

Good questions asked at open days:

- How can the muon decay if it is elementary?
- Can you have a charged photon?
- Why do you need mediating particles for interactions?

Offer explanations

Let us collect written recommendations for hot topics and questioned particle properties:

- Spin: Ivan Melo
- Higgs-mechanism: Dezso Horvath
- String theory: ?
- Neutrino oscillation: ?
- Dark matter, dark energy: ?
- •