Advocating for Science and Scientists

Now more than ever—in everyday conversations with friends and family as well as in lobbying government for support and funding—we need advocates for science. The events in the Advocating for Science and Scientists series will provide you with information, tools, and skills that will help you to advocate for basic research, higher education, science funding, and scientific rigor in policy and decision-making.

All Advocating for Science and Scientists Series events are co-presented by the Graduate Division and the Science Policy Group at UCSF. Other advocacy-related events are listed below for your interest. These may be hosted by other groups as indicated.

Upcoming Events

Join this presentation and discussion led by Natalie Alpert, UCSF’s director of federal government relations. Natalie will be speaking with the group about federal science policy and her work advocating for UCSF in Washington. Her talk will be followed by a Q & A with the audience. Come hear more about how federal policy is affecting scientific research and learn how scientists can be more engaged in advocacy.

Grad Slam 2018 | March 22, 2018, 4 p.m., Byers Auditorium, Mission Bay
The annual Grad Slam contest incentivizes PhD students to hone their communications skills and become better advocates for their own research, as well as for graduate education and the research enterprise as a whole. Everyone is invited to come hear the ten finalists’s engaging three-minute talks about their dissertation projects. The Grad Slam final is always a lively event with clapping and cheering, celebrity judges, a reception, and dramatic announcement of the prize winners. Finalists announced in February.

Previous Events

Advocacy 101 | March 27, 2017
We had a fantastic turnout for our Advocacy Series kick-off event Science Advocacy 101, a forum with Vice Chancellor for Science Policy and Strategy Keith Yamamoto and leaders in science advocacy across UCSF. Watch Advocacy 101, moderated by Dr. Liz Silva, associate dean of graduate programs. Like slides? Watch the classroom capture version.

Twitter for Science | April 17, 2017
Co-hosted with UCSF University Relations, this hands-on practical workshop offered
something for everyone, from the new user who’s always wondered what Twitter is all about, to the seasoned tweeter. The workshop also prepared attendees to at the April 22 March for Science in Washington and satellite march in San Francisco. Watch Twitter for Science [7] on YouTube.

"Stand Up for Science" Teach-In and Rally | April 22, 2017
UCSF held this event to stand in solidarity with members of the academic and scientific communities with a teach-in and rally on the morning of Saturday, April 22—the same day as the March for Science in Washington and satellite march in San Francisco. The teach-in featured UCSF faculty members who have pursued research that has clashed with political sentiments. Immediately after the teach-in, members of the Bay Area life sciences community spoke out for our shared values of diversity and inclusion in advancing scientific discovery. The event was co-hosted by UCSF, in partnership with the California Life Sciences Association and Gladstone Institutes. You can still see video from the event [8].

Dealing With Science Denial and Why I Don’t Call It That Anymore | May 3, 2017
This event featured Ann Reid, executive director of the National Center for Science Education [9]. (Watch a video of the event [10] and read Reid’s March 7, 2017 article "Why NCSE is Marching for Science" [11] in the Huffington Post.)

Joe Palca, NPR Science Correspondent, Chats with Carry the One Radio | August 29, 2017
Carry the One Radio [12]—a UCSF graduate student-run science podcast—invited all graduate students and postdocs to take advantage of this rare opportunity to hear from Joe Palca, science correspondent for National Public Radio, host of Joe’s Big Idea, and occasional host of Science Friday. Carry the One engaged with Palca about his endeavor to provide a national forum for young science communicators, called "Friends of Joe’s Big Idea," and they will chat about creative science communications more broadly.

Postdoc Slam | Sept 19, 2017
The second annual Postdoc Slam competition culminated in a live event, in which 10 postdoc finalists presented their research through engaging three-minute talks. See video of the winner’s talk and more about this exciting annual competition, held every year in September during National Postdoc Appreciation Week. Its sister event, Grad Slam [13]—featuring graduate students, takes place annually in March.

Watch this page for more events, coming soon!

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Links:
[2] https://graduate.ucsf.edu/grad-slam-2018
[4] https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EopQADarmK0
[5] https://lecture.ucsf.edu/ets/Play/a8feb9770c6140af927f13afe42240671d
[6] https://www.ucsf.edu/university-relations