



Introduction to IMPACT

IMPACT Program Curriculum



Why consider impact explicitly?

You've probably gone into biomedical research motivated to have an impact on human health. However, when immersed in a project within a focused professional community, one tends to concentrate on the scientific details, and it is sometimes difficult to consider explicitly and specifically why and how the work will actually have impact, immediately or further down the road.

The purpose of this curriculum is to help you to focus on and articulate how your work will have impact.

In doing so, you may find better paths towards that impact, and as a side benefit, better ways of communicating about your work to others, both inside and outside of your field of specialty.



How to consider “impact”?

There are several questions to consider when considering impact:

- What is the *real* problem being addressed?
- What is your proposed solution or what have you done?
- How will your solution change things?

As mentioned above, most of the focus in proposals, scientific meetings, publications, and so on, on a day to day basis, is on the second bullet, with generally more vague or generalized articulations of the first and third. While this second bullet is obviously crucial, we will spend more time assuring that the first and third bullet ALSO gain attention and specific delineation.



What forms can impact take?

The important question is who will be affected by your work and how? This impact can be obtained through various mechanisms, i.e. not only by direct impact on patients:

- It could be a scientific advance that allows for research insights or new avenues of investigation
- It could be a significant improvement in a device or a new device
- It could be a significant improvement in a clinical method or a new clinical method
- It does not need to 'change the world'



Important Note

- Being in an important field of work does not guarantee that your work will be impactful
- Similarly, making something better (faster, higher signal, more detailed, etc.) does not mean it is more impactful.



What the IMPACT curriculum does:

It challenges you to clarify how your work is headed towards impact.

By better defining it to yourself, it will be easier to articulate



By trying to articulate it, you will better define it to yourself

It challenges you to communicate it to yourself and others (so that it can be useful...).



Another important note !

We are not asking you to take what you do and find a way to make it sound impactful.

We are asking you to take what you do and consider specifically how it will be impactful.



Formats for describing impact

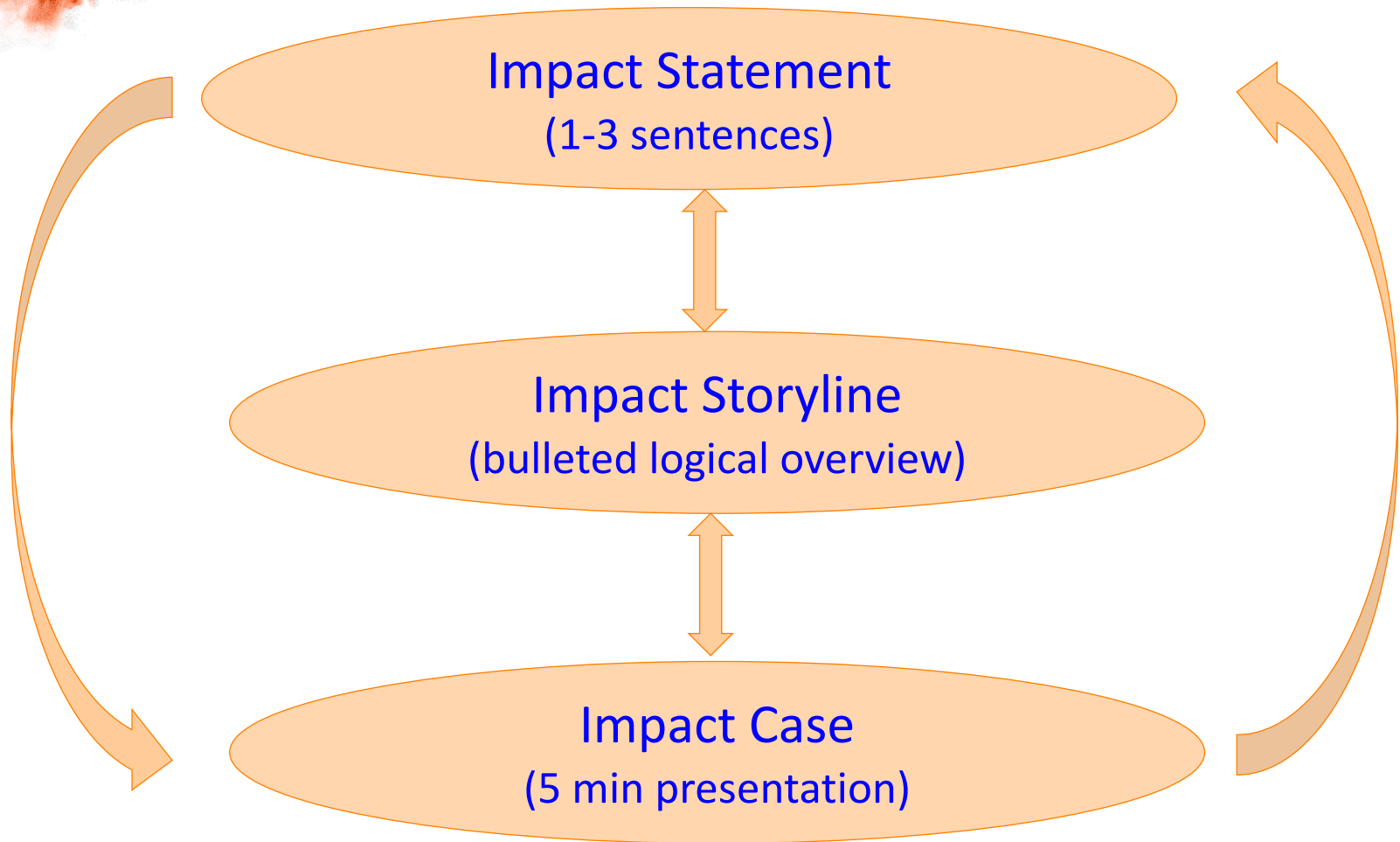
Throughout the curriculum, we will use 3 formats for describing impact.

An impact statements is 1-3 sentences giving the 'bottom line' of what the project is and why it's important.

An impact storyline is a one-page bulleted overview of a project and why it's important.

An impact cases is a 5-minute slide presentation of the project, and why it's important.

They will be iterated throughout the curriculum.





Outline of material on website

1. Intro to IMPACT
2. Impact statements
3. Impact storylines
4. Impact cases
5. Assumptions
6. Stakeholders
7. Self-introductions
8. Example Statement, Storyline, Case