



Scientific Illustration & Figure Design Workshop - Syllabus

Overview

Learn how to make effective visuals for grants and high impact journals with this comprehensive workshop. Participants learn essential design tools and techniques for figures, posters, and presentations. The tutorials use the free design software Affinity, which is the best graphic design tool for research applications. Whether you are new to creating your own figures or experienced professional, this workshop will improve your ability to create effective data graphics.

Instructor: Karen Thiebes, PhD - Simplified Science Publishing, LLC [Go to workshop page](#)

Learning Objectives

- Core principles of effective scientific figure design (clarity, hierarchy, color, typography)
 - Building publication-quality graphs and data visualizations
 - Creating custom scientific illustrations and vector diagrams
 - Assembling multi-panel figures for manuscripts
 - Exporting figures that meet journal-specific formatting and resolution requirements
 - Time-saving workflows and templates you can reuse for future projects
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Workshop Outline

12:00 - 12:50 PM Introduction to Affinity and Data Visualization Best Practices

- Workshop introduction and resources
- Data visualization and color design best practices
- Affinity tools, properties, and workspace setup overview for research figures and posters

10 minute stretch and restroom break

1:00 - 2:50 PM Affinity for Illustrations, Graphs, and Images

- Draw custom scientific illustrations
- Optimize Excel/GraphPad/PDF chart output
- Format scientific images with scale bars and zoom cropping

10 minute stretch and restroom break

3:00 - 4:00 PM Export Settings for Figures & Posters, AI Images, and Participant Q&A

- Final formatting tips and export settings for scientific figures and posters
- Ethical use of artificial intelligence image tools for scientific figures
- Participant Q&A and scheduling your separate one-one design support sessions

Timezone: Eastern USA (GMT-4 or GMT-5)
