Preparing an Awesome Launch Talk

The main objective of your scholarly research presentation is to analyze and critique the research data

General guidelines:

1. Start early preparing slides and draft a script for each slide as a guide
2. Ensure clarity of your presentation by practicing out-loud
3. Work on having a logical progression and flow from idea to idea
4. Get feedback from others, revise your content and presentation style

Considerations while preparing your slides:

1. Presentation rule of thumb 60-90 sec per slide
   - 20 slides of core content for your 25-minute presentation
   - 1/4 of slides describe prior context and background
     - Title and outline slides
     - Introduction
   - 1/2 of slides describe the new data of the research project
   - 1/4 of slides wrap-up
     - Summary and/or conclusions
     - Future directions
     - Acknowledgments
2. Recommended font size: 14-18 point
3. Selected color scheme should not distract your audience
4. Titles should convey the key take away messages
   - Subtitles should expand on key points
5. Use images that present key messages to engage viewers
6. Figures should be cited from their original sources on each slide next to each figure
   - Recommended that you use “author-journal-year”
7. Use the highest resolution images available
8. When feasible, use bulleted or numbered lists

Considerations while presenting your talk:

1. Maintain a passionate tone to engage your audience
2. Think ahead about questions you might be asked and prepare answers

Resources:

- Nature: Good presentation skills benefit careers — and science
- Wiley: 6 Tips for Giving a Fabulous Academic Presentation
- American Journal Experts: How to Build Great Slides for Your Research Presentation
- Nature: How to give a great scientific talk