

# Podcasts in Biology Laboratory Education

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Podcasts can be an effective tool to complement class sessions by delivering original multimedia content to computers and mobile devices. A well-designed podcast assignment can improve understanding, retention, and lab preparedness. This session will take a hands-on approach as you discuss the possibilities and create your own podcast. We'll start by showcasing exemplary models of the three primary podcast formats (audio only, audio and images, and video) and reviewing the podcasting experiences of biology faculty.

Using the University of Delaware's new Student Multimedia Design Center and experienced instructors, you'll take a podcast project from start to finish. Bring an idea for recording a script (or take one of ours) and we'll guide you through the steps involved to create an enhanced podcast package. The session will explore how to write effective scripts, how to select appropriate media (audio, images, text, video), how to optimize an audio recording, and options for having your podcast hosted online. The latest equipment will be available and recommendations will be provided for assembling your own podcast studio.

This session will also discuss planning guidelines, course integration and grading, and the advantages and disadvantages for using podcasts online. Participants will be separated into Windows and Macintosh computer sites to work through the hands-on exercises. Video podcasts will be demonstrated, but the exercises and project will focus on the enhanced podcast format that uses only audio and images.

Participants will be encouraged to gather images and audio impressions of the conference for the creation of a "podcast post card" during a mini-workshop on the last day of the conference.