

## How to answer questions after your presentation

- **General information**
  - When someone asks you a question, listen carefully, **pause for a second**, and then repeat the question clearly to the entire audience.  
“The question was, “What reagent did you use...?”
  - If you did not understand the question at all, ask the speaker to repeat it.  
“Could you repeat that, please?”
  - If you think you understood most of the question, but not quite all of it, clarify by saying,  
“I’m sorry, did you ask which reagent I used?”
- **When you don’t understand the sense of the question**
  - “I’m not sure if I’m following you. Is your question about reagents? Could you tell me a little more about what you mean?”
- **When you don’t know the answer to a technical question**
  - “That’s a good question” or “We had the same question,” then if appropriate say, “We’ll check on that and get back to you. Can you leave me your email address?”
  - You could also say whether you plan to find out that information in a future stage of your study, such as  
“Our next experiments should help us find the answer to that.” Or  
“We plan to look at that in our next study.”
  - “That’s a good question. We haven’t seen that. Has anyone else here had this issue come up/seen this?”
- **When the question is outside of your field**
  - “I’m not the person to ask about that.”
  - “That’s a question for a statistical expert.”
  - “I’m afraid that’s out of the scope of this study.”
- **When there is no real answer to the question**
  - “That’s a great question! I wish we knew the answer!”
  - “That’s an interesting question. What do you/you all think?”
- **When the question is too simple or too complicated, or the questioner just wants to argue with you**
  - “Why don’t we discuss this during the break?”
- **After you have answered (and maybe you’re still unsure of the questioner’s original meaning)**
  - “Does that answer your question?”

