Top Tips for Writing a Good Profile

1. Adjust your writing style for the medium

Website visitors don't read, they skim and pick out the information they want (they may actually read 20 to 30% of a page)

Entice the reader in:

- Be concise
- Make sure the key information is at the top of the page
- Use headings and sub-headings to break the content into manageable chunks
- Use bulleted or numbered lists to help with scanning
- Use hyperlinks where appropriate to highlight important information

Use the first person:

• 'Impressionable Scanning' Users are more open to reading your words when they know *you* wrote it

2. The NDCN 'Voice and Tone'

The best websites are consistent in their written and visual 'style'. So when we first set up the website we did a short workshop to try to articulate how NDCN would like to present itself.

We came up with this:

We are passionate, exciting and fun. We are personable, humane and compassionate. We are not your typical scientist, in that we are well-rounded and cultural.

NDCN Values:

- Be the best, world-leading, excellent and exceptional
- Be collaborative, with tolerance for diverse or even polarized approaches.
- Translation both ways bench to bedside to bench
- Challenging and exciting
- Fantastic facilities

3. Template for a Profile

- 1. Start with a simple sentence which explains your specific area of study, avoiding jargon, in the first person. So: "My research focuses on..."
- 2. Then, step back and provide a line to give context: why is your research important?
- 3. Now explain your work in more detail. What are you looking at specifically, and how do you do it? Again, keep jargon to a minimum, and remember to use the active first person.
- 4. You should also explain how it's having an impact. Is it inspiring new practice, changing policy, going into large-scale trials, or saving lives?
- 5. You might like to wrap up with on-going projects and intended future work.
- 6. Also, feel free to include any important affiliations or teaching commitments.

4. Examples

Eyetracking

The visitor has focussed in immediately on the 2nd paragraph, helped by the short chunks of text and the sub-headings



A good example of a profile



- Professional but approachable portrait photo
- Written in first person
- Bulleted list of key areas of research
- Short concise paragraphs
- Hyperlinks for key locations
- Separate section for biography