



# RESEARCH2REALITY

Shining a light on research & innovation.

## We Love Talking About Science, and We're Not Alone

An interview with **Jenna Usprech**, Biomedical Engineer, University of British Columbia  
Instructor, UBC School of Biomedical Engineering

I create new curriculum and courses ranging from cellular bioengineering to engineering design, to courses like professionalism and ethics. We run the gamut of topics in genetic engineering. And should we actually edit the genome, is that something ethically or morally that we should do? So there are these really interesting bioethics questions that are at the heart of the work that we do.

What gets me really excited about this work is that I'm running this relatively new grad course in science communication for diverse audiences. Generally speaking what we train our graduate students to do is to communicate their science or communicate their engineering to other academics or other professionals, but rarely do they get training in how to communicate beyond.

So the beyond is the rest of the population, the majority of people, so their friends, and their family, and colleagues, and people in industry, people in policy. And teaching, you know, there are lots of different areas that scientists and engineers need training in so they can speak clearly in lay language without the jargon, so people can clearly understand what they're saying.

We ran a pilot of this this previous summer. They noticed a real difference in their ability to present themselves clearly and calmly and simply.

TODAY'S RESEARCH. TOMORROW'S REALITY.