

International Scientific Summer School

A common initiative of the Journal of Electrocardiology, Anatolian Journal of Cardiology, Monitor of Medicine of the Slovak Medical Society, Balkan Medical Journal, Central Asian Medical Journal, and Journal of Kyrgyz State Medical Academy.

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SUMMER SCHOOL DESCRIPTION:

The Summer School provides an interdisciplinary international environment for training skills required for preparing research study protocols, scientific manuscript and international collaboration. During four days, the participants experience a process of elaborating and presenting common research project. This process includes defining a research topic of common interest, selecting an adequate study design, selecting an adequate method of data collection, analysis and interpretation, and developing a feasible study plan and timeline for the project, including the preparation of a research paper.

ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANTS:

Undergraduate and postgraduate biomedical students and researchers from biomedical research in medicine, physiology, biophysics, engineering, computer science, etc. The participation is open also for mentors who would like to share the experience of this learning method.

The number of participants is limited to 20 (maximum 25), to ensure an intensive interaction between participants and faculty.

The proportion of the participants is half- and half with respect to the proportion of local and foreign participants. ("Local" means a participant from the country where the Summer School is organized, "foreign" from any other country).

METHODS:

The course consists of four workshops and is based on the Research Practicum of the Duke University, Durham, NC, USA. It combines plenary and small group discussions, project development and class presentation, and discussion on publishing scientific papers with representatives of medical scientific journals.

In the period before the Summer School, participants are recommended to read the Outcomes Research Practicum protocols and the Summer School Tutorial for the overall information.

The participants are divided into groups before the Summer School. They are encouraged to contact members of their group to initiate discussion on the selection of a research topic of a common interest, to frame the topic of the group research project, to assign responsibilities of the group members for particular research practicum tasks.

SUMMER SCHOOL GOALS:

The goals for this summer school are to:

- Develop skills to carry out research projects, based on a practical, problem-based approach,
- Increase communication skills, including the skills in argumentation, negotiation and critical appraisal,
- Develop skills in international research team building and networking, and establish enjoyable cross discipline/cross cultural collaboration,
- Encourage researchers to publish scientific papers.

THE LANGUAGE OF THE SUMMER SCHOOL:

English

RECOMMENDED FEES:

€150 to 200 (Include: accommodation, meal, learning materials)

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APPENDICES:

Appendix A: General program
Appendix B: Course outline

GENERAL PROGRAM

Day 0	
Morning, afternoon	Arrival
Evening	Introduction of participants, introduction to workshop methods
Day 1	
Morning	Workshop 1: Project selection and Introduction to research proposal
Afternoon	Workshop 2: Research design and methods I: Study population and outcomes
Evening	Working in groups
Day 2	
Morning	Workshop 2: Research design and methods I: Study population and outcomes (power of the study)
Afternoon	Workshop 3: Research design and methods II: Data collection and analysis
Evening	Working in groups
Day 3	
Morning	Workshop 4: Research administration
Afternoon, evening	Working in groups, preparation of group project presentations
Day 4	
Morning	Working in groups, preparation of group project presentations <i>Optional:</i> <i>How to write a manuscript (panel discussion):</i> <i>1. How to choose the right journal / the destiny of your manuscript;</i> <i>2. How to handle the peer-review comments</i> <i>3. How to communicate with the editor</i>
Afternoon, evening	Presentation of projects, group discussion to project presentations Evaluation and Conclusion
Day 5	
	Departure

COURSE OUTLINE

Workshop	Protocol assignment	Goals
<p style="text-align: center;">#1</p> <p>Introduction to an Outcomes Research Study</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significance of the study • Summary statement about the current knowledge of this topics • General objective of this study • The specific hypothesis of this study • The title of this study 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a research question, a hypothesis, and a research proposal goal and rationale
<p style="text-align: center;">#2</p> <p>Methods I: Study population and outcomes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The population considered for inclusion in this study • Specific criteria for inclusion in this study • Primary outcome variables • Secondary outcome variables 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand benefits and drawbacks of various study designs • Understand to choose a study population • Begin developing research design section of proposal
<p style="text-align: center;">#3</p> <p>Methods II: Data collection and analysis</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Type of the study: retrospective, prospective, cross-sectional, longitudinal, observational, experimental • Baseline data (covariates) • The data source • Data acquisition will be handled by: • Data for this study will be managed a stored by: • Type of outcome and predictor variables: dichotomous, continuous • Sample size: The effect size, alpha, power 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe how the data will be collected, analyzed, and interpreted • Describe new methodologies and their advantages • Discuss potential obstacles and alternative approaches • Design data collection instruments (survey, clinical protocols, etc) • Develop data management plan
<p style="text-align: center;">#4</p> <p>Research administration</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project team members (and their individual roles) • Project plan • Potential obstacles to completion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a study plan and timeline for the project proposal • Develop a study budget
<p style="text-align: center;">Project Presentation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop PowerPoint presentation • Present a project 	