Syllabus, Fall 2013
Scientific Writing: A Short Course for Postdocs and Graduate Students
CTPS 6096

Faculty:
Constance D. Baldwin, PhD
Professor, Dept of Pediatrics
University of Rochester Medical Center
Rochester, NY 14642
Phone: (585) 410-5101 (cell)
Email: constance_baldwin@urmc.rochester.edu

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<tr>
<th>Writing Training and Research Grants</th>
<th>Friday, Oct. 18, 8-12</th>
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<tr>
<td>• Preparing to Write a Grant Application</td>
<td>30 min</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Candidate Biography and Career Development Plan</td>
<td>45 min</td>
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<tr>
<td>• The Research Plan</td>
<td>60 min</td>
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<td>• Making Your Words Count Twice</td>
<td>45 min</td>
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<tr>
<th>Planning and Writing Research Articles</th>
<th>Saturday, Oct. 19, 8-12</th>
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<tr>
<td>• Preparation for Writing an Article</td>
<td>30 min</td>
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<td>• Converting a Meeting Abstract into a Paper</td>
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<td>• Strategies, Structure, and Content of a Research Article</td>
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<td>• Becoming a Productive Author</td>
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Writing Training and Research Grants
The session will address the basic principles of successful proposal writing: selling the “big picture,” providing essential details efficiently, and making proposals as easy to read and navigate as possible. Pre-planning steps to enhance writing efficiency will also be discussed, as well as a typical timeline for grant preparation.

The group will next focus on appropriate content and winning strategies for each section of an NIH training grant application:

- Candidate Statement (Biography, Career Goals, and Career Development Plan)
- Supportive information including Mentor Letter
- Research Strategy: [This section will be useful for writing either training grants or R01s]
  - Specific Aims
  - Significance/Innovation
  - Approach

In the last hour, writing with clarity and brevity will also be addressed, with examples from successful grants.

Planning and Writing Research Articles
As preparation for writing a research article, the class will discuss the importance of choosing a focused, significant subject and developing it in keeping with the conventions of a scientific report.

The group will use a meeting abstract as a tool to help them learn to plan an article, step by step. The content and strategy of the introduction, methods, results and discussion will be discussed. Finding an appropriate balance between “big picture” issues and scientific details will also be considered.
In the last hour, participants will discuss the obstacles to writing productivity and strategies for overcoming these barriers. Tips, tricks and technological solutions will be shared.

**Class Policies:**

**Grading**

This course is offered on a Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory basis. Satisfactory can be achieved by attendance at all of both sessions and full participation in the discussion.

**Disability/Special Accommodations Statement:** It is the policy of the University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB) at Galveston to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and state and local requirements regarding students and applicants with disabilities. Under these laws, no otherwise qualified and competitive individual with a disability shall be denied access to or participation in services, programs, and activities of UTMB-Galveston solely on the basis of the disability.

The University of Texas Medical Branch is committed to equal opportunity for students with disabilities. If you have a documented disability or would like to obtain information regarding services for students with disabilities, a complete copy of the “Student with Disabilities: Guidelines for Compliance” may be obtained from the Office of Equal Opportunity and Diversity.

**UTMB Honor Pledge**

On my honor, as a member of the UTMB community, I pledge to act with integrity, compassion and respect in all my academic and professional endeavors.

**Student Conduct and Discipline**

*Student Conduct and Discipline* policy in the *Institutional Handbook of Policies and Procedures (IHOP)*, Section 7.1.3 ([http://www.utmb.edu/policy/ihop/search/07-01-03.pdf](http://www.utmb.edu/policy/ihop/search/07-01-03.pdf)). “General Responsibilities: It is the responsibility of every student, faculty member and administrative official to initiate a disciplinary complaint when scholastic dishonesty or other misconduct is involved” UTMB *IHOP* Section 7.1.3. *Student Conduct and Discipline: General Responsibilities*.