

Short Course in Clinical Research Skills

Course Outline

To provide an overview of clinical research skills required to embark on a clinical research project and to ensure increased quality of such research projects, with the focus on quantitative MMed student projects.

Duration – 13 weeks, 1-2 sessions per week (Monday afternoons 15:30-17:30), made up of 20 themed sessions

Registration

Please consult our website (www.sun.ac.za/RDStraining) to apply online as soon as the application process opens (usually 4-6 weeks prior to the course).

Venue – Tygerberg campus

Purpose

- Introduce clinical research concepts and methodology for registrars and clinician researchers
- Increase clinical research capacity at the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences (FMHS)
- Increase quality of clinical research projects and papers

Target Audience

- Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences (FMHS) research staff and students planning or busy with clinical research projects
- MMed students in particular are encouraged to participate as this will form a firm foundation in preparation for their clinical research projects
- FMHS clinical research supervisors or consultants assisting students with their clinical research projects

Course Content

1. Critical thinking in clinical practice
2. What is clinical research?
3. Developing a good research question
4. Searching the literature and managing references
5. Cohort study design
6. Case-control study design
7. Cross-sectional study design
8. Clinical trial design
9. Diagnostic test accuracy study design
10. Screening tests
11. Systematic reviews
12. Qualitative research concepts
13. Mixed methods research
14. Data collection and questionnaire design
15. Sampling and recruitment
16. Introduction to biostatistics I & II
17. Introduction to health research ethics
18. Preparing your protocol for ethics approval
19. Grant proposal writing and preparing a research budget
20. The responsibility to publish

Expected Outcomes

Acquire a basic understanding and skills to embark on a clinical research study.

Training Approach

Participatory and interactive with focus on practical application.
