PARTICIPATION
This course is designed for faculty and fellows interested in research. Others, including residents and students may also attend, space permitting.

REGISTRATION & SCHEDULE OF CLASSES
Registration includes course materials and lunchtime refreshments.

Class size is limited and participation will be confirmed by February 6, 2015. Registered participants only may attend.

SCHEDULE
Controlling Word Choice and Sentence Structure
Wednesday, February 18, 2015
12:30 - 3:30pm

Developing Paragraphs and Extended Arguments
Friday, February 20, 2015
1:00 - 4:00pm

Writing Successful Research Grant Proposals
Wednesday, February 25, 2015
12:30 - 3:30pm

Writing Successful Research Articles
Friday, February 27, 2015
1:00 - 4:00pm

All four classes will be held in Research Building 6, 1st Floor, 1.206

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT REGISTRATION
CONTACT US
Institute for Translational Sciences
EDUCATION OFFICE
(409) 772-1484
Design and Objectives
Participants will develop a more effective writing style for scholarly documents, with special emphasis on research articles and grant proposals.

In four interactive sessions, participants practice critiquing and revising a variety of writing samples. Featured principles and techniques are summarized in the course materials.

Upon completion of this course, participants should be able to:
• Demonstrate improved skill in writing clear, concise and effective prose
• Describe the form, content and modes of argument conventionally used in scientific articles and grant proposals
• Use strategies that drive the persuasive presentation of ideas in scientific articles and grant proposals

Setting
The 3 hour sessions are held on campus and include a light lunch. All classes are held in Research Building 6, formerly Children’s Hospital, 1st Floor, 1.206.

Description

DEVELOPING AN EFFECTIVE WRITING STYLE

CONTROLLING WORD CHOICE AND SENTENCE STRUCTURE
Using examples from previous participants’ writing projects, the group will learn how to choose words with precision, avoid overused and ill-used phrases, and compose clear and concise sentences. Participants will sharpen their self-editing skills through individual practice exercises.

DEVELOPING PARAGRAPHS AND EXTENDED ARGUMENTS
Building upon the first session, participants will learn how to construct clear and readable paragraphs and develop sound arguments that persuade the reader. Practice exercises will focus on unscrambling poorly ordered paragraphs and reorganizing longer passages to heighten clarity and persuasive impact.

WRITING GRANT PROPOSALS AND RESEARCH ARTICLES

WRITING SUCCESSFUL RESEARCH GRANT PROPOSALS
Participants will learn 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. The importance of pre-planning to enhance writing efficiency will also be discussed.

Participants will learn the appropriate content and organization for each section of the NIH application, as well as winning strategies for each section and how to use the techniques for applying to any agency or foundation.

WRITING SUCCESSFUL RESEARCH ARTICLES
Participants will discuss the obstacles to writing productivity and strategies for overcoming these barriers. Tips, tricks and technological solutions will be shared.

Then, focusing on research articles, participants will learn the importance of choosing a focused, significant subject and developing it in keeping with the conventions of a scientific report. The group will evaluate selections from a sample article and discuss the content and strategy of each section. They will also consider the appropriate balance between “big picture” issues and scientific details.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
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