



5th International Summer
Course on Research
Methodology and Ethics in
Health Sciences



HARVARD UNIVERSITY

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY AND ETHICS IN HEALTH SCIENCES

5th International Summer Course on Research Methodology and Ethics in Health Sciences

The program is supported in part by
the Fogarty International Center / NIH
1R25TW009248
Research Ethics Initiative grant.

DATES: June 16th, 2014 - June 27th, 2014
A Level: Introduction (June 16-20th, 2014)
B Level: Intermediate (June 23-27th, 2014)

Be update on:
<http://rmhs.ku.edu.tr>

Aim

The aim of the course is research capacity building through local and international research collaborations. The first week of the course aims to introduce the basic concepts in statistics and epidemiology. The second week aims to facilitate implementation of research capacity with a solid background on ethical concepts. The course covers the classes on Research Methodology, Grant Writing, Publishing and Ethics in Health Sciences.

What the participants will gain?

Level A (June 16-20, 2014)

- Define basic statistical and epidemiological concepts
- Evaluate methodology in scientific publications
- Control data collection and management
- Choose relevant statistical tests
- How to read and write scientific papers



Level B (June 23-27, 2014)

- Gain insight into building international research partnerships and ethics
- Increase research capacity
- Develop public health research perspectives
- Learn to use scientific evidence in medicine and public health
- Prepare proposals for institutional review boards

Course methodology:

Lectures and practicum with 30 participants with their own laptops.

Learning Activities:

Journal club: The concepts thought in the course are elaborated by critical reading of relevant scientific manuscripts.

Applications on statistical softwares: Participants are expected to perform analysis in parallel with the classes. The practical hours follow the classes.

Poster presentation: The participants are encouraged to present their studies and share the information or research questions. The focus of the studies should be the methodology.

Application & Admission

Participant application requirements:

Document submission in English

Level A:

- Good command of spoken and written English (enclosure of proficiency documentation if possible)
- CV
- Letter of intent showing academic career orientation (not exceeding two pages)

Level B:

Level A to be completed

Grading policy:

The participants will report a project or will present the results of the analysis of a given dataset. The reports will be grades as “pass” or “fail”.

Course fee:

Level A: 200 EUR (or 500 TL)

Level B: 200 EUR (or 500 TL)

Level A+B: 300 EUR (or 750 TL)

* Course fee covers tuition, all lunches and gala dinner.

* For international students accommodation is available for 100 EUR per level

Application deadline:

March 14th, 2014

Sending letter of acceptance:

April 1st, 2014

PROGRAM



Program

First Week (June 16-20, 2014)

Level A

- Contribution of epidemiology on human health
- Types of study design
- Cross sectional studies
- Cohort studies
- Case-control studies
- Biases and the concept of confounding
- Descriptive epidemiology
- Statistical tests
- Hypothesis testing
- Type I and II errors
- Parametric and nonparametric tests
- Correlation
- Multivariate analysis
- Randomized clinical trials
- Scientific writing in English

Second Week (June 23-27, 2014)

Level B

- Historical development of ethics concept
- Principles of ethics
- Research and publication ethics
- Case studies on ethics
- Ethics in randomized clinical trials
- Informed consent
- The role of institutional review boards
- Tips for grant writing and writing in English
- Measuring patient-reported health
- Epidemiological fallacies
- Mentorship in research
- Institutional support for researchers
- How to get funding support for research at national and international level

WHAT MAKES THIS COURSE SO SPECIAL?

Şevket Ruacan
Koç University,
School of Medicine

We need to educate our fellows as researchers; we must train them to be researchers. These courses are one of the best ways to achieve it. How to start a new research work, how to achieve a proper research? There are special rules in particular concerning research involving human subjects. We must take good care of them and give due attention to all relevant ethical issues. The aim of this course is to teach these topics.

We are conducting this workshop together with a well-trained and experienced school; Boston Children's Hospital and Harvard University Medical School and School of Public Health are one of the most distinguished institutions in the USA. We have also worked in close collaboration with the Health Directorate of Istanbul from the very beginning of this program.



Kerim Münir
Harvard University,
Medical School

Our principal emphasis in the first three years was teaching research methods training; with the establishment of the NIH funded research bioethics program we have now added very important value in terms of teaching and integrating bioethics in the program, a unique approach indeed for Turkey and for the Newly Independent States (NIS) region. We consider research methods and research ethics as the “basic disciplines” that are indispensably linked to each other in the practice of epidemiological and clinical studies involving human subjects. This program represents not only a “seed”, but also a process of nurturance of development of research career. We do not just help planting a seed; we need to make sure that it can develop over time. We need to ensure that our appropriate trainees receive the requisite research education and protections from ethical pitfalls and undue interference in their career prospects. This program can serve as a “flagship” and presents a model for good science.



Önder Ergönül
Koç University,
School of Medicine

We want to become a school of medicine that applies this feature in Turkey and the neighboring countries in our own region. We present a new chance for those fellows who want to do further work on scientific research involving human subjects. Here we try to create a positive atmosphere, actually an environment that has to be provided wherever science exists. In order to have science exist individuals need to be in a high, a happy mood and they need to view all persons (irrespective of their situation) and life positively. In fact this is a 300 year old tradition of the Enlightenment. This is just what we are trying to create here. I observed this in our participants; I believe this is really what affects our participants the most.



WHAT MAKES THIS COURSE SO SPECIAL?



Berna Arda
Ankara University,
Medical Faculty

Research enterprise is rapid developing and active field globally. We need to promote research ethics education to help our researchers, institutions, research ethics committees, as well as administrators, to evaluate the ethical basis of scientific studies involving human subjects. Our trainees need to learn about the existing system of research regulation and the innovations of newly proposed regulations that can help clarify the obstacles and opportunities. Research ethics should be as fast as the research enterprise on improvement. There is no formal training or certification expressed in the regulation for membership of research ethics committees. This program can help enlighten trainees in research methods ethics in health sciences.



Dan Wikler
Harvard University,
Medical School

They were a highly capable and enthusiastic group of participants. This was also a very good opportunity for me to learn new things. I'm impressed very much by the class. Many of the fellows were very perceptive. I knew they were clear minded. They followed each and every step of the presentations. Therefore it was a great pleasure to speak to them.

WHAT MAKES THIS COURSE SO SPECIAL?

Henning Tiemeier
Erasmus University,
School of Medicine

This is my third year on this course. The standard of students has always been of a high level, especially managing to think quickly and being very objective. So it is easy to get together in conversations and discussions. I think what they managed here has been serving and delivering the course to intelligent and talented students.



Susan Kornetsky
Boston Children's Hospital

Nowadays research is becoming much more global. I think if they want to do clinical research as young scientists, this is a wonderful way to begin talking with others not only in Turkey and the surrounding countries, but also in US, or for that matter any other place where research takes place. As in our field the only way you can learn is to be collaborative. It is good to collaborate with the people of US and Turkey, and within the country as well. And I think the goal is not only to keep the course in Turkey, but also to collaborate with others.



PARTICIPANTS' VIEWS

Last year, a total of 30 medical research experts from different countries, 13 of which were from Azerbaijan followed the RMHS (Research Methodology in Health Science) courses. We asked their reasons why they've attended RMHS.

TO BENEFIT THE JOINT-VENTURE WORK

Ikram Rustamov

As Azerbaijan is a country at the early stages of its development in medicine and bioethics, we think it is very important for us to make good use of the accumulated practice of those countries such as USA. Therefore, we direct our attention towards high-level scientific research work conducted by others and we tend to aim at receiving grants. All these activities are conducted by the joint work of Koç University and Harvard Medical School. We look forward to learning new things and use them efficiently. We aim to improve and enlarge the medical knowledge, research and bioethics in our country.



TO SEE THE GAPS AND TO FILL THE BLANKS

Handan Tokmak

Because the course had representation among teachers and participants from various parts of the world, it helped us always maintain and to consider different perspectives, while also learning about universal standards of research and ethics. The relationships we gained with people from other lands, taking part in the intensive course meetings, sharing new insights with them, all brought a new dimension for me for my future work. In fact I believe that most of us here, perhaps with the exception of our very young friends, are people who have already walked on the academic road of career development. We can see potential mishaps and pitfalls much more clearly now and therefore are able to fill in the blanks much easier than before. In my opinion, this course is the most effective. I truly benefited and profited from the experience.



TO LEARN ABOUT RESEARCH DESIGN

Ferit Onur Mutluer

I believe the course had a tremendous effect on me. First of all it inspired a great wish in me, to read and research on the subjects of ethics and statistics; it increased my motivation considerably. Besides this, I now know what I want to do regarding grand-scale work and research design, I am quite sure where I will start my work. There are some grants that I can apply for. I know which type of financial support I will apply to.



PARTICIPANTS' VIEWS



TO SHARE KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE

Mehmet Sinan İyisoy

Doing the research properly, using the correct methods while research is very important. Because of these factors I believe that such courses will create a positive difference. I want to gather some knowledge regarding my future studies and also to exchange ideas, knowledge and experience with the teachers who come from afar as well my new friends in Turkey.



TO BE A RESEARCHER, TO BE A SCIENTIST

Narmin Hajiyeve

As a faculty member at Azerbaijan Medical University, I am expected to do research work. We appreciate the opportunity to learn research methods and ethics. I am completing my PhD, and this course is very important because I have to concentrate on the scientific and ethical design of my study. This course is therefore very important for me. Level A helped me with the statistics and research methods. I really do not like statistics but it is essential for all researchers to learn about its basic principles. I do not have to be a specialist in statistics and ethics but I need to learn more about their principles. I also really wanted to learn about the logistic part of the research such as epidemiology and ethical study design.



TO INCREASE THE CAPACITY FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

Alpay Azap

The reason why such programs are very special for me is the fact that statistical methods and bioethics need to be handled more practically during clinical research. Rather than containing highly detailed instructions and an education based on a theoretical frame, the course comprised of easy to use examples, completely cleaned from redundant information, in order to provide practical guidance for our work; a compact program that was highly concentrated but yet simple and comprehensive. These aspects all made the experience quite special.

PARTICIPANTS' VIEWS

TO GAIN A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE

Emin Mehmet Yusuf

I wanted to gain a different perspective, to learn how the world deals with these matters and conducts the teaching, the instructorship, I wanted to see the action and here, I did reach my goals. Ethics is a very important dimension of our work. Therefore it is also very important to have a new perspective regarding ethics. I also transferred the very same perspective to many other people. As this is a new window, I can say that it has really changed my view of the world and, I, in my turn, will relate this perspective to others.



TO GAIN MOTIVATION AND SELF-CONFIDENCE

Tuba Mutluer

This course has provided me with great motivation and as I said before it is also a very high quality program. I was expecting something of the sort but it was much better than I imagined. I met many people and saw how many roads could open up for me. I have new ideas such as a master degree or a doctorate in foreign countries.



TO BENEFIT A COMPACT EDUCATIONAL MODULE

Fatih Artvinli

We have to obtain the knowledge we need in order to reach a higher and better status within the context of the international academic network of knowledge. Unfortunately, we do not have the necessary compact module education in our country. These venues of knowledge can be collected under three main headings: the first one is research; the second one is presenting and publishing the results of research; and the third is the ethical dimension of this research. Especially, this third level is a very new area for us. There are no written courses covering the subject of ethics, that we can learn ethics and put into practice in our research work. This is why I preferred this course. Actually, this is a very practical type of course; it is compact, with duration of two weeks. The fact that it especially provided epidemiologic knowledge, including statistics for clinical work, and giving extra explanations on various methods of practice during clinical work really attracted my attention.





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Location

Koç University School of Medicine
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Fogarty International/NIH Research Ethics Initiative Fellows at the 4th Summer Course on Research Methodology and Ethics in Health Sciences

Shown here with Susan Kornetsky, Director of Clinical Research Compliance, Boston Children's Hospital.
L to R: Onder Ilgili, MD, PhD, Ankara University; M. Hamid Boztas, MD Psychiatry, Abant Izzet Baysal University;
Hasan Kandemir, MD Psychiatry, Harran University