

Basics of Research - 25 June 2010

16 April 2010

Dear Sir/Madam,

We are a team of staff in the School of Human & Life Sciences at Roehampton University with a strong background in teaching research skills. We would like to introduce you to a new venture providing a one day course on research methods: '**Basics of Research - A One-day Course for Health Professionals and Medical Personnel**'.

Whether you want a basic introduction to research and data analysis, to refresh knowledge and skills, or are already involved in research or auditing, this one-day course will help in acquiring and consolidating basic research proficiency. The course will meet the needs of many health care professional and medical personnel, and is in line with the 'Skills for Health' agenda supported by the NHS and the Government on improving numeracy amongst health staff. It will focus on the design of studies and their analysis using a hands-on approach, involving the participants in data collection and analysis exercises.

The team has many years of experience in teaching undergraduate and postgraduate students, including health care professionals. We are aware of the needs of participants with limited numeracy and prior exposure to the language of statistics, but also want to meet the requirements of those with a little more background in the subject. Thus the course introduces concepts gently while also moving on to consider more advanced issues.

Further details on the proposed course and the team are provided below. I also attach a flier which you may want to forward to interested colleagues. For further details and to apply go to

www.letsengage.co.uk

where you will find a link to the course. Alternatively contact me or our Administrator Jill Berthelemy on 020 8392 3171.

Yours faithfully,



Dr Patrick Brady
Senior Lecturer

Basics of Research

A One-day Course for Health Professionals and Medical Personnel

Introductory Price: £99

Date: 25th June 2010 Location: Whitelands College, Roehampton University

The one-day course will cover core issues in research: formulating a research question and converting it into a hypothesis, developing robust designs, analysing data using standard software, and interpreting the findings in preparation for writing a report. We shall use a non-mathematical approach but introduce participants to the relevant technical language which is used in publications and reports.

Aims

To develop skills in research design, statistical analysis and interpretation of results.

Target Group

Health professionals and medical personnel.

Learning Outcomes

Students will be able to

- Formulate research questions and hypotheses
- Translate these into a research design
- Identify appropriate statistical techniques to analyse fundamental research designs in medical and healthcare research
- Carry out analysis using commercially available software (Excel and SPSS)
- Extract the relevant information from such analyses
- Interpret the findings and critically evaluate their strength

Outline Syllabus

- Research as a process of critical enquiry
- Hypothesis testing and the concept of probability
- Analysing numerical data
- Tests for differences
- Correlations and regression
- Testing for parametric assumptions
- Review of the day – questions and answers

A core principle of the day will be a close integration of overview sessions with practical exercises, the latter delivered in our fully equipped computer labs incorporating multi-media capabilities. Each person will have their own computer for the day.

The Team

Dr. Patrick Brady is the Head of Postgraduate Health Sciences at Roehampton University and has twenty years experience in teaching research methods and statistics to health professionals.

Dr. Lewis Halsey is a Senior Lecturer studying the metabolism of humans and animals, using statistical modelling techniques to understand the relationship between energy expenditure and external factors. He has developed a new and successful format for delivering research courses to 1st and 2nd year undergraduate students.

Dr. Jörg Huber is a Principal Lecturer and Chartered Psychologist, working in the field of health psychology. He teaches research skills at undergraduate and postgraduate level both in the UK and Germany. His research focuses on resilience and wellbeing in diabetes patients and other chronic disease groups.

Dr. Peter Shaw is a Senior Lecturer and ecologist who has taught research methods courses to health and biology students for over a decade and has written a primer on multivariate analysis.

All team members are involved in project supervision at undergraduate and postgraduate level, and emphasize a practical approach to the teaching of research skills.

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