CLRES 2075: Seminar for Understanding Principles and Practices of Research Techniques (SUPPORT)
TBD
Location: McKee Large Conference Room 600.08

Overview and Objectives:
The purpose of CLRES 2075 is to provide a forum for medical students to learn about careers in clinical investigation, to present their research in oral and written form, to explore case studies in the responsible conduct of research and the ethics and regulation of human subjects research, and to consecutively peer review colleagues’ research products.

Course Credit:
This course is approved for one credit per academic year (0.5 credits per semester).

Course Requirements:
1. Attendance –100% attendance is expected; less than 67% attendance will result in a “fail” and revocation of tuition scholarship. E-mail Dr. Conroy if you expect to miss class.
2. CITI Certification –All students must complete their “Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI)” training. Access http://www.citi.pitt.edu/citi.
3. Homework and Class participation – All students must complete required reading, upload completed research products to CourseWeb and/or e-mail class partners and Dr. Conroy, and complete assigned peer review assignments prior to class and to contribute productively to the conversation during seminar.

Course Grading Scale:
Pass/Fail. A failing grade will result from non-completion of any of the requirements outlined above.

Web Resources:
Certification: http://www.citi.pitt.edu/citi
Syllabus and session assignments: https://courseweb.pitt.edu/webapps/login/
Office of Academic Career Development: http://www.oacd.health.pitt.edu

Academic Integrity:
Students in this course will be expected to comply with the University of Pittsburgh's Policy on Academic Integrity (http://www.provost.pitt.edu/info/ai1.html). Any student suspected of violating this obligation for any reason during the semester will be required to participate in the procedural process, initiated at the instructor level, as outlined in the University Guidelines on Academic Integrity. This may include, but is not limited to, the confiscation of the examination of any individual suspected of violating University Policy.
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<tr>
<th>Date and time</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Session 1</td>
<td>Introduction: Review syllabus, Introduction to peer review process</td>
<td>McKee 600.08</td>
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<tr>
<td>Self-schedule</td>
<td>Painless Pubmed, Endnote Basics, Crafting a Data Management Plan, Box Basics, etc. Advanced classes are also available – Sign up for listserv and attend two</td>
<td>HSLS – Scaife Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Self-schedule</td>
<td>Office of Academic Career Development Workshops – Sign up for listserv and attend one (Publication Process in Oct, Career Development Plan on Nov 17) See: <a href="http://www.hsls.pitt.edu/calendar">http://www.hsls.pitt.edu/calendar</a></td>
<td>TBA</td>
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<td>Session 2</td>
<td>Revised research proposals: Peer review</td>
<td>McKee 600.08</td>
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<td>Session 3</td>
<td>Grants 101</td>
<td>McKee 600.08</td>
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<td>Session 4</td>
<td>Ethics case study: FACTT vs SUPPORT vs other</td>
<td>McKee 600.08</td>
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<td>Session 5</td>
<td>Journal club: work-in-progress</td>
<td>McKee 600.08</td>
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<td>NO CLASS – Thanksgiving recess</td>
<td>McKee 600.08</td>
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<td>Session 6</td>
<td>Research in progress: Work-in-progress presentations</td>
<td>McKee 600.08</td>
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<td>Self-schedule</td>
<td>Make an appointment for your mid-year review with course director and your mentor.</td>
<td>TBA</td>
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<td>Session 7</td>
<td>Research in progress: Work-in-progress presentations</td>
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<td>Session 8</td>
<td>Journal club</td>
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<td>Session 9</td>
<td>Developing Resilience as a Clinician Investigator</td>
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<td><strong>Session 10</strong></td>
<td>Book club: The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks</td>
<td>McKee 600.08</td>
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<td>Session 11</td>
<td>Journal club: Bring your mentor to class</td>
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<td>NO CLASS</td>
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<td>Session 12</td>
<td>Draft manuscript: Peer review</td>
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<td>NO CLASS</td>
<td>McKee 600.08</td>
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<td>Session 13</td>
<td>Draft poster: Peer review</td>
<td>McKee 600.08</td>
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<td>Session 14</td>
<td>Poster session and reception</td>
<td>TBA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Self-schedule</td>
<td>Make an appointment for your end-of-year review with course director and your mentor.</td>
<td>TBA</td>
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Session-by-Session Schedule:

Session Topic: Research in Progress: Oral Presentations
Location: McKee 600.08

Topics:
Presentation skills
Constructive feedback (continued)
Clinical research design and analysis

Required Reading: n/a
Homework Assignment: n/a

Session Topic: Journal Club/Meet your new Director
Location: McKee 600.08

Topics:
Reading the scientific literature
The “behind the scenes” of clinical research
Career trajectories

Required Reading:
Chang MJ article

Homework Assignment:
Chang article

Session Topic: Developing Resilience as a Clinician Investigator

Topics:
Identifying factors related to resilience
Pitfalls and strategies for accomplishing a successful research career
Identifying and incorporating skills for success

Required Reading:


Homework Assignment:
Talk with your mentor/s about the skills and strategies they feel are important to attain success as an investigator.

Session Topic: Book Club: The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks
Location: McKee 600.08
Topics:
Ethics and regulation of human subjects research
Racial disparities in clinical research participation

Required Reading:
The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks (see: http://rebeccaskloot.com/the-immortal-life/)

Homework assignment:
Complete short answers to the following discussion questions:

Deborah shares her mother’s medical records with Skloot but is adamant that she not copy everything. On page 284 Deborah says, “Everybody in the world got her cells, only thing we got of our mother is just them records and her Bible.” Discuss the deeper meaning behind this statement. Think not only of her words, but also of the physical reaction she was having to delving into her mother’s and sister’s medical histories.

Henrietta signed a consent form that said, “I hereby give consent to the staff of The Johns Hopkins Hospital to perform any operative procedures and under any anaesthetic either local or general that they may deem necessary in the proper surgical care and treatment of: ________” (page 31). What information would they have had to give her for Henrietta to have given informed consent? Do you think Henrietta would have given explicit consent to have a tissue sample used in medical research if she had been given all the information? How would giving written informed consent have changed the story?

In 1976, when Mike Rogers’s Rolling Stone article was printed, many viewed it as a story about race (see page 197 for reference). How do you think public interpretation might have been different if the piece had been published at the time of Henrietta’s death in 1951? How is this different from the way her story is being interpreted today? How do you think Henrietta’s experiences with the medical system
would have been different had she been a white woman? What about Elsie’s fate?

Deborah says, “But I always have thought it was strange, if our mother cells done so much for medicine, how come her family can’t afford to see no doctors? Don’t make no sense” (page 9). Should the family be financially compensated for the HeLa cells? If so, who do you believe that money should come from? Do you feel the Lackses deserve health insurance even though they can’t afford it?

Dr. McKusick directed Susan Hsu to contact Henrietta’s children for blood samples to further HeLa research; neither McKusick nor Hsu tried to get informed consent for this research. Discuss whether or not you feel this request was ethical. Further, think about John Moore and the patent that had been filed without his consent on his cells called “Mo” (page 201). How do you feel about the Supreme Court of California ruling that states when tissues are removed from your body, with or without your consent, any claim you might have had to owning them vanishes?

Religious faith and scientific understanding, while often at odds with each other, play important roles in the lives of the Lacks family. How does religious faith help frame the Lackses’ response to and interpretation of the scientific information they receive about HeLa?

Session Topic: Draft Manuscripts: Peer Review

Location: McKee 600.08

Topics:
Medical writing
Constructive feedback
Clinical research design and data analysis

Required Reading:
Assigned manuscript

Homework assignment:
Upload manuscript
Complete peer review of assigned manuscript

Session Topic: Posters: Peer Review

Location: McKee 600.08

Topics:
Medical presentation
Constructive feedback
Clinical research design and data analysis

Required Reading: n/a

Homework assignment: Upload poster, using class-designed template
Session Topic: Local Poster Session and Reception

Location: TBA

Topics:
Presentation skills
Networking skills

Required Reading: n/a

Homework assignment:

Prepare and print final poster