ISN Online Scientific Writing Course
Cohosted by SLANH in Latin America

The course

The ISN Online Scientific Writing Course (SWC) is a course given by experts in the field of scientific writing to help physicians and researchers from a range of backgrounds and specialization in nephrology to improve their scientific writing skills, so they achieve the skills needed to publish their research work. The selected participants from the region will receive hands-on and one-to-one mentoring from faculty on writing skills for their respective research work. The process of translating research projects into publications will receive sustained ongoing guidance from faculty after the course.

Purpose

Achieving and maintaining high standards in science writing is crucial to advancing research as much as sharing, testing and comparing new ideas and discoveries. This course is designed to incorporate:
- the participants’ skills in conducting clinical research in nephrology - and getting the results published
- the art and science of manuscript writing and responding to reviewers.

Format and timeline

The ISN Online Scientific Writing Course (SWC) 2023 cohosted by SLANH in Latin America will be asynchronous, and organized and held online as the following:
- Lectures and supporting reading materials will be available on the ISN Academy before the live sessions
- Four 1.5-hour live mentoring sessions via Zoom
- Groups of 3-5 participants will be allocated to each faculty member

The course will kick off in July with a welcome session (date to be announced soon). The live mentoring sessions will be scheduled with the faculty throughout the following 4 weeks.

A strong and reliable internet connection and functioning devices (computer/laptop, webcam) are required to participate in this course.

Teaching method and content

During this course, talented investigators who are in the process of writing a manuscript are guided step-by-step to proficiently review and complete their manuscripts based on world-class methods. This course is asynchronous and consists of a series of didactic lectures available for viewing on the ISN Academy, and live sessions with group activities and one-to-one mentoring, demonstrations and
interactive discussions. It includes a process of critical analysis, constructive feedback and sharing of experiences in the field of research.

The participants should ideally come away with:

- The necessary knowledge base to succeed in publishing scientific papers in top international journals or to prepare a grant application
- An in-depth understanding of scientific peer-review publishing
- How to best present their work in general
- Inspiration and motivation to write but also to do more basic research and launch projects in their own countries
- A better basis for undertaking and/or setting up international collaborative efforts
- Ability to write cover letters, write reviews and evaluate the work of others
- Ability to plan and outline papers in an organized, systematic way, and to incorporate their colleagues’ suggestions and observations.

Teachers/ Faculty

English-based tutorials will be delivered by a group of international expert scientists.

Participants

A maximum of fifteen (15) participants from the Latin America region will be accepted for the ISN Online Scientific Writing Course. Seats are therefore limited.

The responsibility for stable internet connection and functioning devices (computer/laptop, webcam) remains with each participant. The ISN cannot be held liable for weak or unstable internet connection or malfunctioning devices during the course.

Eligibility criteria

The course is open to ISN members AND SLANH members from the region who:

- speak and write English fluently
- are early-career scientists (age <40 years)
- work predominantly and have experience in clinical research (i.e. health research requiring approval from a human ethics board) and basic research in a lower, lower-middle, or upper-middle income country as per World Bank classification
- have manuscript(s) published in a peer-reviewed journal, or have other indicators of high potential in clinical research
- have an active research project
- are demonstrably motivated to improve their scientific writing skills.

Application Process and Selection

Candidates need to apply via an online form by June 15, 2023. The application must include:

1. Filled in application form (in English)
2. CV (in English, max. 4 pages, PDF or Word format only)
3. List of publications (max. 6 items)
4. Letter of reference from Institution/national society
5. Proof of SLANH membership in good standing

The applications received will be reviewed and scored by the Clinical Research Committee, course faculty and SLANH. Clinical Research Committee and SLANH will make final decisions on eligibility as required.

The selection process is competitive to keep high-quality standards. To note that prior clinical research experience and an active research project are mandatory.

Platform and Tools

The ISN Academy website, the virtual meeting platform Zoom, and document-sharing platform will be used to conduct this course.

Program

Lectures on the ISN Academy (non-exhaustive list):

- Formulating the Research Question
- Important points to keep in mind while writing a scientific paper
- Preparing to Submit Manuscript – Choosing a Journal
- Literature search
- Key Aspects to Writing the Results
- The Introduction section
- The Discussion section
- The Methods Section
- The Abstract
- Brief guidance on response to Reviewers
- Writing the Cover Letter

Live Sessions on Zoom (dates to be defined):

- Welcome and Introduction with the participation of the faculty members, SLANH representative(s) and ISN Young Nephrologists Committee representative(s)
- Mentoring and review of active research projects

Contact for inquiries

For all inquiries, please contact the Course Coordinator via swc@theisn.org.