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Department of Clinical Research

Department of Clinical Research
Medical Grant Writing Program for Clinicians 2023



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Welcome from Prof. Dr. med Eva Segelov, **DCR** Director

A sincere and warm welcome to the inaugural small group intensive education program from DCR. We chose grant writing as our first course due to the complexity—and often underestimated skill—needed to produce a competitive research grant. Rather than a short, all-in-one day course, we have used the pedagogy of iterative, hands-on learning, with a high level of supervision and mentorship.

DCR is lucky to have the expertise of Dr. Kristin Marie Bivens who brings many years of experience in scientific writing and a wholistic, philosophical approach to writing and publishing—one of the most fundamental tools for successful research.

I hope you find the course instructive and form great relationships with your cohort and DCR, so we can assist each other throughout our careers.

Also, a **big thank you to sitem-insel** who donated the use of the Aquarium for the in-person workshops.



About the DCR Medical Grant Writing Program by Dr. Kristin Bivens, PhD, **DCR** Education Officer and Program Designer

Designed for clinicians who would like to enhance their skills regarding applications for grant funding for clinical research projects, the DCR Medical Grant Writing Program offers an intensive program focused on planning, writing, developing, and revising scientific grant application materials written in English.

Through a blend of virtual and in-person writing consultations and workshops and optional virtual *schreibstunde* or the weekly writing hour, the DCR Medical Grant Writing Program requires a total time investment for consultations and workshops of around 10 hours over 6 months,

When we designed the Program, we decided to offer it over 6-months to provide sustained support, opportunities for guidance, and community-building as participants develop their studies over time, which we think more clearly mirrors the writing process in practice.

I drew from my decades of experience as a teacher, researcher, and editor of writing and my commitment to designing immersive learning experiences aimed to help writers uncover their ideal material writing conditions and enhance—an experience I hope occurred for participants in the inaugural DCR Medical Grant Writing Program for Clinicians.

Although there are benefits to one-time courses offering similar content, the DCR Program recognizes writing throughout the study cycle—from protocol to publication and the patient and public involvement in between—requires infrastructure and support for sustained writing practices to set clinicians up for writing successful grant applications.

The inaugural DCR Medical Grant Writing Program admitted 9 participants from an array of disciplines. With dates set for the 2024 Program, we plan to extend our reach and our support to other clinicians seeking approaches to enhance their medical grant application writing skills written in English.

DCR Medical Grant Writing Program for Clinicians Course Participants



Dr. med Corina Bello

Discipline: Anesthesiology

Position: Resident

Institution: University Hospital of Bern, Inselspital;
Department of Anesthesiology and Pain Medicine

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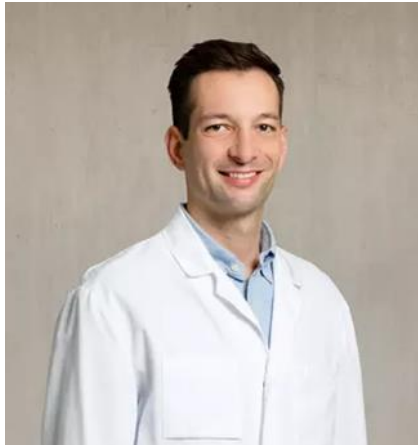
I am an aspiring clinician-scientist and resident doctor at the Department of Anesthesiology and Pain Medicine at Inselspital. I graduated as a medical doctor in 2020 and received my doctorate degree focusing on anesthesiology in the research group of Prof. Markus M Luedi in 2020 from the Medical Faculty, University of Bern.

My current research focuses on outcomes in perioperative and acute care settings, such as perioperative safety and quality of care, optimizing clinical as well as patient-reported outcomes, personalized medicine and leadership, and management questions in the field of anesthesiology. Although I'm working 100% clinically at the moment, I am a group member of the Acute Care and Outcomes Research group led by Prof. Markus M. Luedi at the Inselspital.

In my free time, I recharge my batteries by being active, preferably outside in nature. I volunteer as an assessor for the Swiss Study Foundation, and I am involved in the Junior Sports and Exercise Medicine Committee since a healthy lifestyle is one of my passions. I am fluent in German and English and speak and understand French and Italian on a more basic level.

Goals for DCR Medical Grant Writing Program for Clinicians

Swiss National Science Foundation Postdoc.Mobility Grant; various project grants



Dr. med. Jan Gewiess

Discipline: Orthopedic Surgery and Traumatology

Position: Resident

Institution: University Hospital of Bern, Inselspital;
Department of Orthopedic Surgery and Traumatology

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After completing medical studies at the University of Kiel, Germany, I started my residency in Traumatology and Orthopedic Surgery at the University Hospital of Munich, Germany in 2018 with a special focus on spine and hip surgery. As an aspiring clinician-scientist, I joined the AO Research Institute Davos for a fellowship in basic research in 2020, before I resumed my residency at the University Hospital of Bern.

My current research focuses on fragility fractures of the pelvis. Under the supervision of Prof. C.E. Albers and Prof. J.D. Bastian, I am undertaking clinical as well as basic research in this field. In several projects directed at a better understanding of the nature of such fractures, I hope to contribute to a significant improvement in their management.

Goals for DCR Medical Grant Writing Program for Clinicians

Gain knowledge about preparing and writing skills for medical grant application; evaluate grant writing weaknesses and strengths.



PD Dr. med. et phil Berna Özdemir

Discipline: Medical Oncology

Position: Attending Physician; Senior Lecturer

Institution: University Hospital of Bern, Inselspital

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I am a clinician-scientist working at Inselspital Cancer Center in Switzerland; I specialize in melanoma and genitourinary malignancies. My research focus is sex and gender differences in cancer risk and outcome, especially treatment toxicity.

Since 2018 I have organized international conferences and workshops and conducted various surveys to raise awareness about sex and gender disparities in cancer research and clinical oncology. As a member of the European Society of Medical Oncology Gender Medicine Task Force, I develop educational material on sex and gender differences in the biology and treatment outcomes of non-sex related cancers.

Currently, I am investigating sex-specific drug dosing strategies to improve the balance of efficacy and toxicity of anticancer therapies for patients.

Goals for DCR Medical Grant Writing Program for Clinicians

SNF IICT Grant; Krebsliga Grant



Dr. med Paola Sindaco

Discipline: Hematology

Position: Oberärztin

Institution: University Hospital of Bern, Inselspital;
Department of Hematology and Central Hematology
Laboratory

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After completing my medical studies at University of Pisa and Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies in Italy, I specialized in clinical hematology at the University of Bari, Italy with a special focus on the biology and treatment of aggressive and indolent B-cell lymphomas.

To further delve into the genetics of lymphomas, I dedicated three years to laboratory and translational research as a postdoctoral researcher at the Italian Foundation for Cancer Research in the Institute of Medical Oncology in Milan, Italy, where I managed a multicenter study, currently in the submission phase.

I subsequently spent a year at Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia, United States, where I participated in the kick-off of a registry study for lymphomas and T-cell leukemias and led a laboratory project investigating novel therapeutic targets in T-cell Prolymphocytic Leukemia.

Goals for DCR Medical Grant Writing Program for Clinicians

To improve and make my grants more compelling, learn more about budget management, and enter the world of grants in Switzerland.



Dr. med Johann Stuby

Discipline: Internal Medicine

Position: Resident

Institution: University Hospital of Bern, Inselspital;
Department of General Internal Medicine

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After completing my medical studies at the University of Zürich in 2018, I underwent clinical training in internal medicine and anesthesiology at Spital Davos, Limmattal Hospital, and University Hospital of Zürich. Throughout my clinical training, I had the opportunity to participate in several smaller research projects, which led to creating case reports, case series, and narrative and systematic reviews.

Presently, I am employed at the University Hospital of Bern, specifically in the Department of General Internal Medicine. Recently, I started a 6-month clinical research training program with the focus on venous thromboembolism. The aim of this program—among others—is acquiring skills in scientific writing, medical statistics, and planning studies, which allows for my contribution to larger research projects in the future.

Goals for DCR Medical Grant Writing Program for Clinicians

Gain knowledge about preparing and writing skills for medical grant application.



Dr. Daniëlle Verschoor, PhD

Discipline: Immunology; Drug Development

Position: Postdoctoral researcher

Institution: Department of Clinical Research,
University of Bern

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As a teenager, I was already fascinated by the process of drug development—how one small compound develops into something groundbreaking. I decided drug development was the field I wanted to work in. So I obtained a Bachelor’s in molecular Life Science (Radboud University Nijmegen, The Netherlands), and a master in Drug Development (University of Utrecht, The Netherlands). In 2018, I moved to Bern for my PhD in Immunology at the Institute of Pharmacology, where I did my thesis on the innate immune system, mainly granulocytes, and their treatment resistance in inflammatory conditions.

Although I am trained as a wet bench scientist—and I might be the only non-clinician participant in the DCR Medical Grant Writing Program for Clinicians—I recently made the decision to explore the other parts of drug development: the clinical part. As a postdoc in the Department of Clinical Research, I currently do lots of (meta-)analysis on clinical trial registry data, yet I plan more involvement in clinical trials as well.

Goals for DCR Medical Grant Writing Program for Clinicians

Gaining a solid background to start writing grants; learning what aspects can “make or break” a grant; and learning tips and tricks to increase chances of earning grants.



Dr. med. Anna-Sophie Villiger

Discipline: Obstetrics and Gynecology, especially Urogynecology

Position: Oberärztin

Institution: University Hospital of Bern, Inselspital
Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology,

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I am an obstetrician and gynecologist with specialization in surgical obstetrics and gynecology. After completing my medical studies at the University of Bern, I have worked in different sized hospitals in Switzerland and for a few months abroad in Nepal and Bangladesh. At the moment, I am finalizing my subspeciality training in Urogynecology at the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Bern University Hospital.

In 2023 I terminated a certificate of advanced studies in Clinical Research at the University of Bern. My main research focus is the microbiome of the bladder and its role in different urogynecological diseases as well as pelvic floor function in women with endometriosis and in different sports.

Goals for DCR Medical Grant Writing Program for Clinicians

To learn how to structure the ideas and information in a grant proposal and “sell it”; get help on how to realistically plan all the necessary tasks; and understand what points need to be considered for budgeting and how to apply them.



Dr. med Jaqueline Wyss

Discipline: Gastroenterology

Position: Assistenzärztin

Institution: University Clinic for Visceral Surgery and
Medicine (UVCM); University Hospital of Bern, Inselspital

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I am a gastroenterology trainee with a keen interest in (gut) microbiota research.

After basic training in internal medicine, I obtained additional analytic training by completing a master's in bioinformatics and computational Biology. My goal is to use this expertise in my current position where I am training to be a specialist in Gastroenterology with a research focus.

Gut microbiota are suspected of being one of the main contributors of several gastrointestinal diseases, such as nonalcoholic steatohepatitis or inflammatory bowel disease. My main motivation is to dedicate my research effort in this field to ultimately translate experimental knowledge back into clinical practice.

Goals for DCR Medical Grant Writing Program for Clinicians

I want to profit from expertise from the DCR collegiate. I hope to improve further grant applications and to make the application more concise. The DCR Medical Grant Writing Program would facilitate generating more funds for existing project ideas.



Dr. med. Jarmila Zdanowicz

Discipline: Obstetrics, Feto-Maternal Medicine

Position: Oberärztin; Ärztliche Leiterin

Institution: University Hospital of Bern, Inselspital Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology

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My main research areas focus on peripartum hemorrhage and patient blood management, hypertensive disorders in pregnancy as well as prenatal diagnosis in ultrasound. I am involved in several interdisciplinary clinical and research projects at the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Inselspital.

I obtained a Bachelor of Science in Biology from the University of Utah in Salt Lake City, USA, and completed my medical studies with an MD at the Ludwig-Maximilians-University in Munich, Germany, with clinical training in Australia, Canada, Poland, and Switzerland. In 2021, I was a Research Fellow in the Department of Obstetrics and Prenatal Medicine at the University Hospital Hamburg-Eppendorf in Germany.

Currently, I am completing my subspecialty training in Feto-Maternal Medicine in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Inselspital. I speak English, French, German, Polish, and fluently.

In my free time, I like to travel, spend time outdoors, and get creative with my kids.

Goals for DCR Medical Grant Writing Program for Clinicians

Evaluating my grant writing weaknesses and strengths; learning more about what to avoid and what to emphasize; and better structuring my grant writing.

2024 DCR Medical Grant Writing Program for Clinicians

Important Dates and Events

Applications	Date
Due by	November 1
Decision planned for	November 15

Grant Writing Program Events and Dates Description

Consultation 1 45 minutes	<i>Either</i> Monday, January 22; Tuesday, January 23; Wednesday, January 24; <i>or</i> Thursday, January 25	45-minute online <i>or</i> in-person appointment at sitem-insel between 8.00–18.00
Workshop 1 150 minutes	Wednesday, January 31 9.30–12.00	in-person at sitem-Insel
Consultation 2 45 minutes	<i>either</i> Monday, March 18; Tuesday, March 19; Wednesday, March 20 <i>or</i> Thursday, March 21	45-minute online <i>or</i> in-person appointment at sitem-insel between 8.00–18.00
Workshop 2 150 minutes	Wednesday, April 24 9.30–12.00	in-person at sitem-Insel
Consultation 3 45 minutes	<i>either</i> Monday, May 20; Tuesday, May 21; Wednesday, May 22 <i>or</i> Thursday, May 23	45-minute online <i>or</i> in-person appointment at sitem-insel between 8.00–18.00
Workshop 3 150 minutes	Wednesday, June 12 9.30–12.00	in-person at sitem-insel

Please spread the word and tell your colleagues.

DCR Medical Grant Writing Program for Clinicians Participant booklet

June–December 2023

Department of Clinical Research (DCR)

www.dcr.unibe.ch ; [LinkedIn](#)

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