



DEPARTMENT OF  
CLINICAL RESEARCH

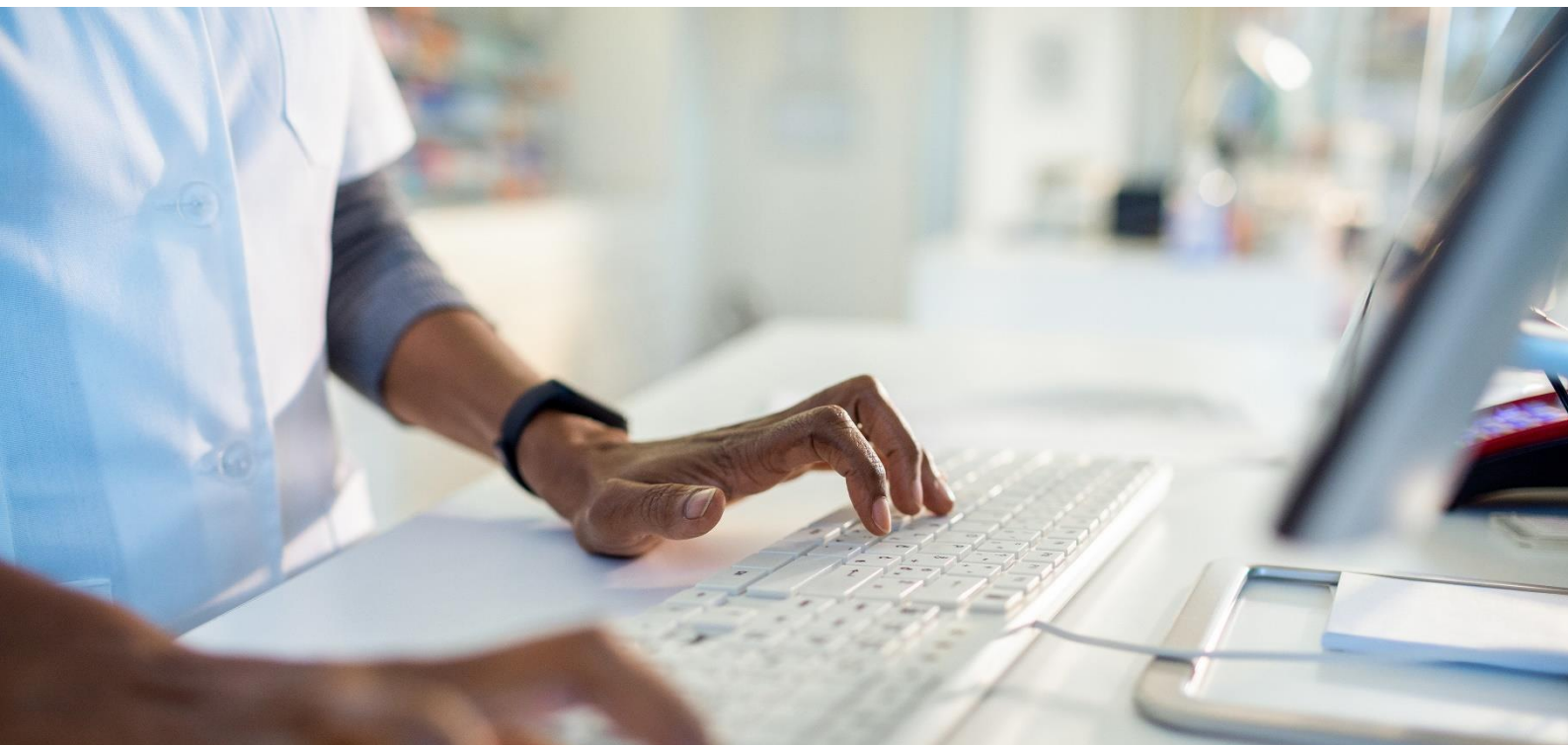
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Department of Clinical Research

Medical Grant Writing Program for Clinicians 2024 (winter)

Participant Booklet

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

A sincere and warm welcome to the second cohort of the DCR Medical Grant Writing Program for Clinicians—a small group intensive education program offered twice a year.

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.

DCR remains steadfast in its support of clinicians of all professional levels from study design to study conduct and all the writing that happens in between. DCR's mission is to become the focal point in a patient-centered, flexible use hub-and-spoke model for clinical research across the Faculty of Medicine and partners in the University of Bern and Inselspital and associated health services.

Our mission strives to support and promote all aspects of clinical research through a strong service orientation and by offering top-notch, leading edge clinical education and evidence-based learning assessed systematically and cyclically—the DCR Medical Grant Writing Program for Clinicians is one offering that contributes to fulfilling our mission.

DCR courses align with our mission and our core values of working collaboratively with a broad variety of partners, actively engaging and facilitating new projects and opportunities, promoting equity and diversity of researchers, pursuing excellence through education and professional development, and engaging patients and the broad community as partners.

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



**About the DCR Medical Grant Writing Program by Dr. Kristin Bivens, PhD, Head of Education & Training at DCR 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, 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 a 6-month period 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 professor, researcher, and editor of writing and my commitment to designing immersive learning experiences aimed to help writers uncover their ideal material writing conditions—an experience I hope occurs for all participants in the 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 supported and sustained writing practices to set clinicians up for writing successful grant applications.

## DCR Medical Grant Writing Program for Clinicians Course Participants



### **Dr. med. Nicolas Arnold**

Discipline: Urology

Position: Oberarzt / senior physician

Institution: University Hospital of Bern, Inselspital Department of Urology

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After completing my medical studies at the University of Bern in 2015, I worked at several smaller hospitals in Switzerland in both general surgery and urology. I have been working at the Clinic for Urology at Inselspital Bern since 2020 and obtained specialization in Urology at the beginning of 2023. Since January 2024, I have been a senior physician at my clinic.

I completed my doctorate at the University of Bern in 2017, writing about parenteral nutrition after radical cystectomy. Since returning to Inselspital Bern, I have been increasingly involved in clinical research with a focus on prostate cancer as well as urothelial carcinoma of the bladder and the upper urinary tract.

### **Goals for DCR Medical Grant Writing Program for Clinicians**

1. Since I have not applied for any grants yet, I would like to use this opportunity to gain experience grant writing from scratch and acquire and maintain a certain structure.
2. I would like to learn as well how to recognize potential pitfalls early on and avoid them in the future.
3. Overall improving my grant writing will hopefully give me additional options on how to do my future research.



**Dr. med Irina Filchenko**

Discipline: Neurology

Position: Assistenzärztin, PhD Candidate

Institution: University Hospital of Bern, Inselspital Department of Neurology

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I completed my medical training at Pavlov University (St. Petersburg, Russia), followed by a two-year residency program in neurology at Mechnikov University (St. Petersburg). Currently I am continuing my specialization in neurology at Inselspital, University of Bern.

My decision to pursue neurology stems from an interest in translational neuroscience. I started my research journey during my first year of medical school, initially focusing on experimental stroke and later shifting attention to clinical sleep research.

During my residency in St. Petersburg, I was looking for an opportunity to broaden my research horizons, and I received the fellowship for one year of clinical sleep research (Inselspital, University of Bern). This experience formed the basis for my PhD thesis about the role of sleep in cognitive recovery after experiencing a stroke (expected graduation in June 2024). In my upcoming postgraduate research, I aim to investigate the relationship between sleep and longevity, including vascular risk.

**Goals for DCR Medical Grant Writing Program for Clinicians**

1. DCR's Medical Grant Writing Program inspires me greatly since it offers continuous support and one-on-one writing consultations with hands-on learning.
2. As an early career researcher, I am interested in improving my grant writing and acquiring funds to support my project ideas and career development.
3. Effective communication of scientific concepts, particularly for non-specialized audiences, is crucial for project acceptance and for the broader dissemination of knowledge. I would like to master these skills.



**Dr. med Yuly Mendoza**

Discipline: Visceral surgery and medicine

Position: Ärztin / physician

Institution: University Hospital of Bern, Inselspital; Department of Visceral surgery and medicine

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After medical school, I obtained the specialty of gastroenterology in 2017 in my home country. Becoming an academic hepatologist has been my goal since my last years of training and primed me to come to Bern for training in hepatology. Between 2018 –2019 I trained for the Diploma of Advanced Studies in Hepatology, University of Bern Switzerland. After that, I decided to stay in Bern and I started a PhD in Clinical Research.

In 2022, I finalized a PhD focusing on risk stratification in cirrhosis. My PhD project included a project in cirrhosis regression, since diagnostic and prognostic markers of this important stage are lacking.

Since 2023, I have been working as a resident physician in hepatology at Inselspital while working towards official recognition of my gastroenterology training in Switzerland. Concurrently, I have "protected research time" grant, dedicating 40% of my time to translational research in cirrhosis regression within hepatology.

**Goals for DCR Medical Grant Writing Program for Clinicians**

1. I have finished my PhD and now I am trying to find my own way as a researcher; this is the most crucial step in my career, so that I can find financial support to continue my line of research.
2. DCR Medical Grant Writing Program for Clinicians is a terrific opportunity to improve my grant writing skills and gain financial support in pursuit of my ultimate academic career goals.
3. I recognize the need to enhance my efficiency and time management for writing grant.



**Dr. med. Stéphanie Perrodin**

Discipline: Visceral Surgery and Medicine

Position: Oberärztin / senior physician

Institution: University Hospital of Bern, Inselspital  
Department of Visceral Surgery and Medicine

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I am a clinician-scientist working as a senior physician at the department of visceral surgery and medicine at Inselspital. After completing my medical studies at the University of Lausanne, I got my specialization in general surgery, and I am currently in subspecialty training for visceral surgery.

I am also a PhD candidate at the Graduate School for Health Sciences at the University of Bern. I have a passion for clinical research, focusing on postoperative outcome including recovery, wound healing and postoperative chronic pain.

**Goals for DCR Medical Grant Writing Program for Clinicians**

1. I would like to learn how to communicate my ideas in a way that awakes curiosity and interest in the reader.
2. I would like to learn how to realistically budget for a project.
3. I hope to get to know pitfalls to avoid.





**Dr. med. Antonio Rodriguez Calero**

Discipline: Clinical pathology

Position: Oberarzt / senior physician

Institution: University of Bern, Department of Tissue medicine and pathology

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Since 2019, I have been a Research Fellow at the lab of Prof. Mark A. Rubin, Department for BioMedical Research, University of Bern. Currently, I am a staff pathologist at the Institute for Tissue Medicine and Pathology, University of Bern, where I lead the areas of Uropathology and Nephropathology. At present, I am also enrolled in a molecular pathology fellowship at the same institute. During my residency, I worked under the mentorship of Prof. Rubin developing a Swiss-wide network for tissue collection of metastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer.

My current goal focuses on further molecular characterization and application of AI pathology in metastatic prostate cancer. Further, I participate in national and international collaborations on uropathology with focus on prostate cancer, namely with the University Hospital Inselspital, Bern, Switzerland and the Abate-Shen Lab, Columbia University, New York, among others.

**Goals for DCR Medical Grant Writing Program for Clinicians**

1. I REALLY want to learn from people with experience how to write a grant.
2. I want to be able to improve the quality of my grant proposals and therefore also the probability of getting funded.



**Dr. med. Jose Roshardt**

Discipline: Orthopedic Surgery and Traumatology

Position: Wissenschaftlicher Assistenzarzt, Hüfte und Becken /  
Scientific assistant physician, hip and pelvis

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

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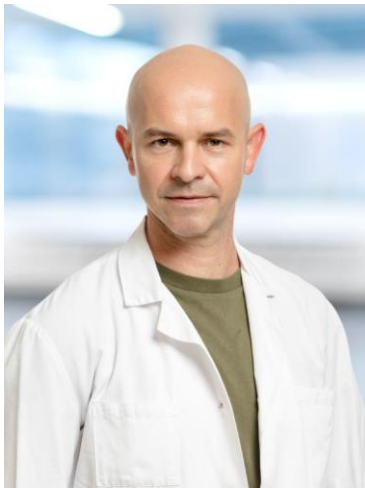
After graduating from the Medical University of Innsbruck in Austria, I began my residency in orthopedic surgery and traumatology, rotating through various clinics in Bern. I am currently working as a scientific assistant physician at the Department of Orthopedic Surgery while working on my PhD.

The aim of my doctoral work is to use an AI-based algorithm for automatic MR segmentation of the hip to generate new and detailed anatomic knowledge, define normal 3D morphology of labrum and cartilage, and validate biochemical MR sequences for cartilage.

In parallel to my PhD, I am also enrolled in a MAS Program in Digital Clinical Research at ETH, to broaden my knowledge about the application of digital tools in the setting of clinical research.

**Goals for DCR Medical Grant Writing Program for Clinicians**

1. Doing this Program will help me understand the grant application process and the criteria, language, and expectations of funding bodies.
2. Also it will help me successfully secure broader grant research opportunities.



**Dr. med. Christoph Saner**

Discipline: Pediatric Endocrinology, Diabetology and Metabolism

Position: Consultant and Clinical Researcher

Institution: University Hospital of Bern, Inselspital Department of Pediatric Endocrinology, Diabetology and Metabolism

Email: [christoph.saner@insel.ch](mailto:christoph.saner@insel.ch)

After completing medical school at the University of Bern, I obtained the specialty of pediatrics in 2016. Between 2017 and 2020 I trained for the subspecialty of pediatric endocrinology and diabetology at Melbourne, Australia and graduated in Switzerland in 2020.

In 2020, I finalized a PhD in Clinical Research involving children and adolescents with obesity with my focus on determinants for the development of obesity and its association with cardiometabolic outcomes. My aim is to identify primary and secondary preventive methods to lower the prevalence of obesity and to reduce obesity-related co-morbidities.

Since 2020, I have been a consultant pediatric endocrinologist and diabetologist, and clinical researcher at the University Children's Hospital in Bern. I have developed [diabetes education videos](#), and I set up a biorepository of children and adolescents with obesity. I am principally involved in two RCTs (FibreGum & ELIPSE), and I supervise the Menu CH kids study at Bern.

**Goals for DCR Medical Grant Writing Program for Clinicians**

1. To improve my success rate.
2. To get a structure/plan how to write a grant.
3. To speed up my grant writing.



**Dr. med Daniel Schanne**

Discipline: Radiation Oncology

Position: Oberarzt / Senior Physician

Institution: University Hospital of Bern, Inselspital;  
Department of Radiation Oncology

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I am a clinician-scientist working as a radiation oncologist. Scientifically, I am currently pursuing a PhD at the Graduate School of Health Sciences, University of Bern that combines clinical work with research.

The focus of my PhD project is on genetic biomarkers of head and neck cancer. Previously, I worked for several years in tumor biology laboratories as a medical student and as a postdoctoral researcher. The aim of my work is to bridge the gap between research and clinical work.

**Goals for DCR Medical Grant Writing Program for Clinicians**

1. To learn to tell a convincing story.
2. To learn how to better communicate my ideas, so that other people understand what I want to say.
3. To get outside input by somebody experienced about my strengths and weaknesses.



**Dr. med. Salome Weiss**

Discipline: Vascular Surgery

Position: Oberärztin / senior physician

Institution: University Hospital of Bern, Inselspital Department of vascular surgery

Email: [salome.weiss@insel.ch](mailto:salome.weiss@insel.ch)

After graduating from medical school at the University of Bern, I started my specialization in vascular surgery. Besides several years of training at the Department of Vascular Surgery at Bern University Hospital, I went through rotations in intensive care, angiology and general surgery at different Swiss hospitals.

I became involved in clinical research in vascular surgery early during my training. From 2017–2018 I spent a year at Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota, USA as a clinical research fellow. In 2021, I was board certified as a vascular surgeon and I am now working as a consultant at the Department of Vascular Surgery at Bern University Hospital.

My research focuses on aortic pathologies like aneurysms, dissections and infections. Highlights of my research activities have been the coordination, analysis and publication of a European multicenter registry on pericardial grafts in aortic infection as well as the coordination of the PAPAartis trial at our study site in Bern, a randomized controlled EU Horizon 2020 project investigating the effect of preoperative spinal artery coiling in thoracoabdominal aneurysm repair to reduce postoperative paraplegia rates.

**Goals for DCR Medical Grant Writing Program for Clinicians**

1. I hope to get reliable help and dedicated time for writing a grant.
2. Improve my chances to be awarded a grant.



**Dr. med Anna Silvia Wenning**

Discipline: Visceral Surgery and Medicine

Position: Oberärztin / senior physician

Institution: University Hospital of Bern, Inselspital; Department of Visceral surgery and medicine

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I work as senior physician in the pancreas team of the Department of Visceral Surgery and Medicine at the University Hospital Bern. After my specialization in general surgery I had the chance to complete a MD PhD in the Mucosal Immunology and Gastroenterology group of Andrew Macpherson.

I returned to clinical work and finished my specialty training for visceral surgery. My major interest is to improve outcomes of patients diagnosed with pancreatic cancer—a disease with poor prognosis.

**Goals for DCR Medical Grant Writing Program for Clinicians**

1. Trying to complete a full proposal for a grant myself, I realized that it needs specific skills I do not have yet.
2. I hope to learn tips and tricks to increase my chances for successful proposals in the future.
3. I like the interactions with people with similar interests and with similar aims.

## 2024 DCR Medical Grant Writing Program for Clinicians



### Important Events and Dates

2024 DCR Medical Grant Writing **Evening** Program for Clinicians (June–December 2024)

**Register** by May 1, 2024

**Questions?** Contact DCR Education & Training at [education.dcr@unibe.ch](mailto:education.dcr@unibe.ch)

Register here by **May 1** for DCR's Medical Grant Writing Program for Clinicians.

Events	Dates	Description
<b>Writing Consultation 1</b> 45 minutes	<i>Either</i> Monday June 3; Tuesday, June 4; Wednesday, June 5; Thursday, June 5; <i>or</i> Friday, June 6.	45-minute online <i>or</i> in-person appointment at sitem-insel (slots available during the day <i>and</i> in the evening)
<b>Workshop 1</b> 150 minutes	Monday, June 10 from 5:30 pm–8:00 pm	in-person at sitem-insel in room EO.427.B—Aquarium
<b>Writing Consultation 2</b> 45 minutes	<i>either</i> Monday, August 19; Tuesday, August 20; Wednesday, August 21; Thursday; August 22; <i>or</i> Friday, August 23.	45-minute online <i>or</i> in-person appointment at sitem-insel (slots available during the day <i>and</i> in the evening)
<b>Workshop 2</b> 150 minutes	Monday, September 16 from 5:30 pm–8:00 pm	in-person at sitem-insel in room EO.427.B—Aquarium
<b>Writing Consultation 3</b> 45 minutes	<i>either</i> Monday, October 7; Tuesday, October 8; Wednesday, October 9; Thursday, October 10; <i>or</i> Friday, October 11.	45-minute online <i>or</i> in-person appointment at sitem-insel (slots available during the day <i>and</i> in the evening)
<b>Workshop 3</b> 150 minutes	Monday, December 9 from 5:30 pm–8:00 pm	in-person at sitem-insel in room EO.427.B—Aquarium

DCR is delighted to announce the next DCR Medical Grant Writing Program for Clinicians—**with evening hours**. The Program requires a total time investment for writing consultations and workshops of around 10 hours **over 6 months**.

The Program blends individualized medical grant writing guidance through writing consultations and group workshops. **3 individual writing consultations** occur over certain weeks with **group workshops** on 3 Monday Evenings for the Program. The Program starts with one-on-one writing consultations the week of June 3 and concludes with a last group workshop at sitem-insel on Wednesday, December 9.

The DCR Program is ideal for applicants who seek to submit grant applications to funders after December 2024, although we welcome applicants pursuing grant opportunities with other submission goals. Program organizers expect full commitment from participants, including **attendance** at all scheduled events.

DCR Medical Grant Writing Program for Clinicians Participant Booklet

January–December 2024 (winter)  
Department of Clinical Research (DCR)  
[www.dcr.unibe.ch](http://www.dcr.unibe.ch); [LinkedIn](#)

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