

The Research Education Program responds to the needs and interests of a diverse research community in Nova Scotia, across Atlantic Canada as well as Nationally & Internationally. Servicing a complex and dynamic environment requires a multi-faceted, collaborative and multidisciplinary approach.

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Research Education Program

EDUCATION STREAMS

The Research Education Program has organized its educational offerings into three main streams. Each stream offers training towards a specific goal as detailed below. **Sessions are available in person, remotely and as post session recordings.** Several sites across Atlantic Canada regularly participate through remote access.

Supports & Services for Researchers

These sessions are essential for new staff, new researchers and affiliate scientists to learn more about the supports and services available to them at NSHA. In addition to meeting Research Services members and understanding the administrative tasks they provide, some sessions provide specific support for tasks such as using the on-line submission portal (ROMEO) for the Research Ethics Board.

Building Research Capacity

These session topics have a broad scope to appeal to the diverse needs of NSHA's research community; from the novice researcher to the experienced researcher looking for a refresher on a particular topic. The presenters are local researchers who are excellent presenters and offer expertise in particular research topics. Excellent feedback has ensured continuity of this series.

Research Standards & Regulations

This stream offers workshops and presentations on various regulations and standards to ensure team members are appropriately qualified and comply with applicable local, national and international requirements. Evidence of training for some of these topics is required by Health Canada and the FDA.

Objectives of the Education Program:

- Protection of study participants
- Facilitation of high quality research to ensure the collection of excellent research data
- Compliance with applicable regulations and standards
- Development and maintenance of research capacity
- Sharing of best practices and resources across the Maritimes

Other Program Components

In addition to the Education Streams, the Research Education Program offers a number of other supports for health professionals and students ranging from regulatory consultations to international certification opportunities.

Clinical Skills/ Post-Entry Competency/ Scope of Practice

Health professionals working in clinical research may require training for specific clinical skills and post-entry competencies such as venipuncture. It is important for all research staff to ensure that such skills fall within their scope of practice (licensed health professionals) and within their scope of employment (unlicensed research staff). Consultation is encouraged for questions related to scope of practice/employment.

Society for Clinical Research Associates (SoCRA) Halifax Chapter

The Society of Clinical Research Associates (SOCRA) is a non-profit, charitable and educational membership organization committed to providing education, certification, and networking opportunities to all persons involved in clinical research activities. The Halifax Chapter of SoCRA offers education to local SoCRA members through the education program for professional development and competency maintenance. Members who meet specific criteria are eligible to write SoCRA's certification exam to be recognized as a Certified Clinical Research Professional. This exam is offered periodically through the Halifax SoCRA Chapter.

Supports for Investigator-Sponsored Regulated Clinical Trials

Investigator-initiated clinical trials represent an important component of the research conducted at NSHA. When these trials involve a drug or natural health product, compliance with certain regulations and guidelines is mandatory. In these situations the researcher assumes the regulatory responsibilities of both the investigator and the sponsor.

A consultation is strongly encouraged and should be sought as early as possible, before the protocol and funding proposal is submitted.

This ensures that investigators:

- are adequately informed about the responsibilities they will assume
- have realistic budgets
- have contracts and agreements in place
- understand the process for regulatory compliance

Additional supports:

- Research Team SOPS
- Clinical Trial Protocol Guidance Document & Template
- Guidance Document : Database Validation

Research Placement for Students

Students who wish to conduct research at NSHA must meet certain requirements before beginning a research placement. The Education Program facilitates student placement to ensure these requirements are met, including an existing affiliation agreement between NSHA and the academic institution and agreement from a supervisor (NSHA staff or affiliate scientist) who is willing to be responsible for the student for the duration of their research placement.