

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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<http://www.cdha.nshealth.ca/discovery-innovation/research-training-education>



# Research Education Program

# EDUCATION STREAMS

The Research Education Program has organized its educational offerings into different areas of interest. All sessions are open to researchers and staff across Atlantic Canada.

## Supports & Services for Researchers

These sessions are designed to provide essential detailed information on the various services and supports available to NSHA researchers and staff, essentially for new staff, new researchers or clinician scientists. In addition to meeting Research Services members and understanding the administrative tasks they provide, some sessions provide specific support for other research related responsibilities such as the Research Ethics Board or Lab Shared Services.

## 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.

## Research Standards & Regulations

This stream provides continuing education and professional development opportunities with presentations on various regulations and standards to ensure team members are appropriately qualified and comply with applicable local, national and international requirements. These sessions are most relevant to those working on or conducting clinical trials especially if the trial involves an unapproved intervention (drug, device and/or natural health product).

## Research Methods Unit (RMU)

The RMU offers training seminars/workshops in biostatistics, qualitative research methods, focus groups and health economics. The RMU team is made up of experienced consultants who provide expertise and support to health professionals and investigators at all stages of a research project through consulting, training and mentorship.

## Education Access Options

- Pre-Register and attend a session in person or online (via Lync/Skype for Business)
- Review a post-session recording via our Vimeo channel: <https://vimeo.com/channels/nsharesearch>
- In-person sessions at your department (*contact the Research Education Manager for details*)
- Online via the N2 Network (\*ICH-GCP & Division 5 - registration required, *contact Research Education Manager for details*)

## ADDITIONAL 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.

### Diving into Clinical Trials? Sink or Swim! Workshop

A two-day interactive workshop for new research employees or for those looking for a research refresher focusing on the practical application of Health Canada's Regulations and Standards to the conduct of clinical trial research in Canada. Emphasis is placed on research of unapproved interventions (drugs, devices and or natural health products).

### ICH-GCP- Good Clinical Practice\*

ICH-GCP training is required by Health Canada for investigators and research team members who are working on clinical trials involving drugs or natural health products. In addition to this, Health Canada also expects investigators and research teams to be trained on Division 5 regulations if they are working on drug trials.

### 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.

### Investigator-Sponsored Clinical Trials

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

It is essential to be aware of these requirements; otherwise in the event of a regulatory inspection or an internal quality audit, the researcher could be cited for non-compliance, leading to suspension or termination of their research. It is imperative that investigators make themselves aware of the requirements they must meet early in the planning process.

It is mandatory that investigator-sponsors engage in this training, understand the implications, comply with the regulations and fulfill their responsibilities.

### 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. Research staff who meet specific criteria are eligible to write SoCRA's certification exam to be recognized as a Certified Clinical Research Professional (CCRP). This exam is offered periodically in Halifax. Eligible sessions in our Research Standards & Regulations stream qualify for SoCRA continuing education (CE) credits.