

# OBSSR Training Institutes

## Randomized Clinical Trials Involving Behavioral Interventions

[http://obssr.od.nih.gov/training\\_and\\_education/annual\\_Randomized\\_Clinical\\_Trials\\_course/RCT\\_info.aspx](http://obssr.od.nih.gov/training_and_education/annual_Randomized_Clinical_Trials_course/RCT_info.aspx)

This 12-day course in July provides 35 fellows with understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of randomized clinical trials (RCT), design considerations, and data analysis issues. The objectives of the course are to provide a thorough grounding in the conduct of randomized clinical trials to researchers and health professionals interested in developing competence in the planning, design, and execution of randomized clinical trials involving behavioral interventions. The curriculum will enable participants to:

- Describe the principles underlying the conduct of unbiased clinical trials.
- Identify the unique challenges posed by behavioral RCTs.
- Evaluate alternative RCT designs in terms of their appropriateness to scientific and clinical goals.
- Select appropriate strategies for enrollment, randomization, and retention of participants.
- Understand methods for monitoring, coordinating, and conducting RCTs.
- Develop strategies for appropriate statistical analyses of RCT data.
- Evaluate the quality of behavioral RCTs and interpret their results.
- Design a RCT research project in collaboration with a scientific team.

Priority is given to individuals who have received their PhD or MD (or equivalent degrees) not later than two-years prior to the date of the course. Applicants must have at least two years of subsequent research experience. Applicants should not yet have achieved a tenured position at their institution. (The typical past participant has had 4-5 years of research experience.) Applicants must be US citizens or be aliens with permanent-resident status. Beyond these eligibility criteria we are seeking researchers who have demonstrated research potential and experience and who will clearly benefit from behavioral randomized controlled trial training. The ideal candidate will have prior experience, and will be actively pursuing an independent research career, in behavioral randomized clinical trials.

To receive announcements about this annual course, join the listserv by submitting a message to [listserv@list.nih.gov](mailto:listserv@list.nih.gov). The body of the message should read *SUBscribe RCT-L YOUR NAME*.

## Social Work Research

[http://obssr.od.nih.gov/training\\_and\\_education/annual\\_Health\\_Services\\_Research\\_on\\_social\\_work/hsr.aspx](http://obssr.od.nih.gov/training_and_education/annual_Health_Services_Research_on_social_work/hsr.aspx)

These five-day summer training institutes offer new researchers intensive exposure to issues and challenges in the field of social work research. Despite the title, they are open to all disciplines. They include lectures, seminars, and small group discussions in research design relative to social work as it relates to health, discussion sessions on methodological approaches and interventions, and consultation on the development of research interests and advice on preparing and submitting research grant applications to the NIH. Past topics included:

- Design and conduct of qualitative and mixed-method research in social work and other health professions.

# OBSSR Training Institutes

- Behavioral and social intervention research.
- Design and development of quantitative research on social work interventions in health.
- Health Services Research: Cross-systems research to improve health outcomes.
- Community-based participatory research targeting the medically underserved.
- Transdisciplinary research: Integrating genetic and social work research.

## Institute on Systems Science and Health (ISSH)

[http://obssr.od.nih.gov/scientific\\_areas/methodology/systems\\_science/index.aspx](http://obssr.od.nih.gov/scientific_areas/methodology/systems_science/index.aspx)

Produced and funded by The Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research at the National Institutes of Health and the Syndemics Prevention Network at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, these five-day summer training institutes provide attendees with a thorough introduction to a selected systems science methodology that may be used to study behavioral and social dimensions of public health challenges. Participants in the course focus on one of three methodologies: agent-based modeling, system dynamics modeling, or network analysis. The ideal candidate is an investigator, at any stage of his or her career, who has had little or no formal training in systems science and aims to use the knowledge gained at ISSH to develop proposals to the NIH and CDC for research projects to improve population health and health equity.

The curriculum will help participants to:

- Better understand the general principles of systems science and different methodological traditions, including their strengths, limitations, and types of problems for which they are best suited;
- Work through specific problems using a chosen methodology and become familiar with relevant software package(s);
- Appreciate the potential for applying systems science methodologies to problems of population health and disease, especially those in which behavioral and social factors figure prominently; and to
- Prepare stronger applications to funders such as NIH, CDC, and philanthropies.

Applicants must have:

- Completed or be currently enrolled in a Ph.D., M.D. or equivalent terminal degree within their field.
- Crafted a research statement focused on a public health problem/opportunity that would benefit from the appropriate use of one or more systems science methodologies.

Applicants are not required to be citizens, permanent residents, or non-citizen nationals of the United States. However, expenses will only be paid for domestic (within the U.S.) travel.

Preference will be given to applicants who plan to use the training to inform research on health problems facing the U.S. population.