HARVARD
MEDICAL SCHOOL

# Elevate Your Health Care Career with Clinical Research Training

**Foundations of Clinical Research**
Certificate Program

> **This program is designed to help you build a practical toolbox in clinical research. You will learn how to develop studies, conduct research, and contribute to health care innovation. Throughout the program, we continue adding to that toolbox, from choosing the right study design for your research question to understanding which statistical tests to use based on your data and gaining the confidence to do your own statistical analysis."**

**Jamie M. Robertson, PhD, MPH**
Senior Research Scientist, Brigham and Women's Hospital
Assistant Professor of Emergency Medicine, Harvard Medical School Faculty Director, Foundations of Clinical Research Program



## About the Program

Many clinicians and health care professionals regularly face complex questions about patient care, from selecting the most effective treatment to improving outcomes for those who are sick or injured. Harvard Medical School's Foundations of Clinical Research certificate program provides essential training in the core skills needed to answer these questions through clinical research.

Participants emerge with a clear understanding of how to develop research questions, formulate hypotheses, and design clinical research studies. Through hands-on training in biostatistics and epidemiology, scholars strengthen their ability to critically evaluate medical literature, analyze and synthesize data using key statistical software, apply ethical principles in clinical research, and communicate results effectively.

## Program Format

Offered entirely online, the Foundations of Clinical Research program provides flexible training for busy health care professionals worldwide. Participants engage in three intensive workshops, self-paced lectures, over 30 hours of live faculty-led sessions, and complete an individual research project culminating in an original abstract and digital ePoster. Scholars should expect to spend approximately 7–10 hours per week on coursework.

## Who Should Apply

The Foundations of Clinical Research program is designed for medical and health professionals with advanced degrees who seek to develop foundational skills in clinical research. Candidates holding an MD, MBBS, MB Bch, PhD, DMD, DDS, PharmD, DNP, BSN, DPT, OTD, RD, PA, MSN or equivalent degree are encouraged to apply. Applicants are not required to have prior experience in clinical research or to have authored or contributed to any previous publications.

## Program Objectives

- Demonstrate and apply the foundational concepts of biostatistics and epidemiology
- Develop research questions, formulate testable hypotheses, and design clinical research studies
- Acquire the skills needed to present clinical research effectively
- Critically evaluate the medical literature and synthesize key statistical analyses using Stata software
- Assess the ethical principles pertinent to clinical research

**For more information and to apply, visit: learn.hms.harvard.edu/fcr**

# Foundations of Clinical Research

## About the Program

This program is anchored by three live online workshops. In between workshops, expect an average of 7-10 hours of work per week, which includes:

- **Watching pre-recorded online lectures**
- **Attending live symposium, tutorials, and seminars**
- **Completing individual quizzes, exams and other assignments**

In addition to quizzes, exams, and team-based assignments, learners complete two individual assignments that guide them through developing a research question and study design and producing an original abstract and e-poster for presentation.

**Live Online**
This program requires attendance at three workshops and is supplemented by live online sessions and independent work.

**$9,350**

**Certificate**
Earn a Certificate of Completion when you complete all program components

**Early Application Deadline:** June 16, 2027
**Final Application Deadline:** August 25, 2027

**Workshop 1:** September 25 – 26, 2027 | Live Online
**Workshop 2:** January 8 – 9, 2028 | Live Online
**Workshop 3:** April 22 – 23, 2028 | Live Online

## Workshop 1 Topics*

- Epidemiology
- Biostatistics
- Stata Analysis

## Workshop 2 Topics*

- Foundational research skill development
  - Data cleaning
  - Question and hypothesis development
  - Project management
- Defining research outcomes
- Teamwork and Presentation Skills

## Workshop 3 Topics*

- Foundational research skill development
  - Cost Analysis
  - Datasets
- Career development
- Presentation Skills



## Sample Live Online Workshop Schedule*

*Subject to change

| Time (ET) | Saturday | Sunday |
|---|---|---|
| 8:00-9:30am | Foundations of Clinical Research Overview | Developing Research Hypothesis |
| 9:30–9:45am | Break | |
| 9:45–11:00am | Epidemiology 1 | Dynamic Delivery in Scientific Communication |
| 11:00am-3:00pm | Mid-Day Break | |
| 3:00–5:00pm | Biostatistics 1 | Epidemiology 2 |
| 5:00–5:15pm | Break | |
| 5:15–7:00pm | Stata 1 | Stata 2 |
| Asynchronous and Live Online Sessions held between Workshops | | |

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