

DESIGNING CLINICAL RESEARCH (1 month)
ASSIGNMENT # ONE

Due: August 2nd, 2017 at the start of class

In Assignment One, you will present your research question and a few statements describing the significance of this question. Please bring this assignment to class on August 2nd.

To do:

- I. Read Chapters 1 and 2 in *Designing Clinical Research, 4th Ed*, ("DCR-4") by Hulley, et al**
- II. Identify and meet with your research mentor to discuss possible research questions.**
- III. Compose parts of your protocol**
 - A. Read the Introduction and Chapters 1 and 2 of the *Designing Clinical Research* textbook (4th edition), by Hulley et al.
 - B. Identify the research mentor who is willing to work with you on your proposal. Typically such a person is engaged in clinical research or may be someone who can provide access to a relevant database.
 - C. Think up a research question for which you might design a study, and **write a one sentence version of your research question** to bring to your small group session on August 2nd. We strongly encourage you to think of a real question that is of interest to you and can be feasibly answered by a trainee at your level.
 - D. Familiarize yourself with the literature related to your research question using PubMed and **write 3-5 sentences explaining the significance of your research question**. This initial draft of a "Significance Section" can take the form of a paragraph or logic statements as outlined in the sample protocol in the *Designing Clinical Research* textbook.
 - E. Plan to learn Endnote or RefWorks, reference management software that will be very useful as you in your research. Classes on Endnote and RefWorks are offered by the UCSF library. You may begin using this software to format your Significance section above.

Don't worry if your ideas about a research question don't seem perfect--that's normal at this stage. (This is one of the reasons why you are taking this workshop.) Thinking up a good research question can be hard, which is why we get you started on this before the course begins. Your mentor and colleagues are essential ingredients for developing your ideas.

Objectives:

After this session, you should:

- 1. Know the name and something else about the section leader and each of the other participants**
- 2. Be able state your research question in a single sentence including study design, predictor variable, outcome variable and subjects**

- 3. Be able to explain to another person in a couple of minutes why your research question is worth answering**
- 4. Know how and when to turn in your homework assignment and when to expect feedback**